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Odisha girl airlifted to Delhi for advanced care

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Prime accused among four held in Kolkata

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Reform cannot wait, aviation safety is at stake

The need for a genuine 'culture of safety'

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Pacer Kamboj added to India Test squad

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Kailash Manasarovar Yatra giving a new impetus to ties, says Chinese envoy

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

China is prepared to discuss "refining border management and control rules" to resolve issues around its disputed boundary with India after the four-year military stand-off ended at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong said on Sunday.

He expressed optimism that the revival of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra would "inject impetus" to ties and that direct flights would be launched soon.

Rejecting criticism of China's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, Mr. Xu said that bilateral ties were not targeted at a third country. He warned that comments by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and other Indian officials supporting the Dalai Lama's statement on his successor could cause friction within India-China bilateral ties.

> China is willing to maintain communication with India through diplomatic and military channels, and, in the spirit of equal consultation and mutual security, further refine the border area management and control rules... so as to achieve sustainable peace and tranquillity in the border areas
>
> **XU FEIHONG**
> Chinese Ambassador to India

In written responses to questions posed by *The Hindu*, the Mr. Xu pointed to a flurry of high-level visits from India to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meetings over the past month as proof of improving ties. They include visits by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Mr. Xu noted the possibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelling to China for the SCO Summit on August 31 and September 1, which would be his first visit since the Galwan clashes.

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FULL INTERVIEW ON
» newsth.live/newimpetus

Open to debate on Operation Sindoor in Parliament: govt.

Opposition insists on response from PM on Operation Sindoor and its after-effects during the Monsoon Session; Minister says any debate on the subject should be held within laid-down rules

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Centre is open to discussing all issues of national importance, including Operation Sindoor, in Parliament, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said here on Sunday.

The government said this at an all-party meeting held ahead of the Monsoon Session beginning on Monday. At the same time, it cautioned the Opposition that any debate on the subject had to be held within the laid-down rules and procedures.

Opposition parties, meanwhile, insisted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak on Operation Sindoor and U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated claims that he had brokered peace between India and Pakistan. They demanded a discussion on the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Setting the stage: Union Ministers J.P. Nadda and Kiren Rijiju with Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and others after the all-party meeting on Sunday ahead of the Monsoon Session. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"We are very open to a discussion on important issues like Operation Sindoor. These are issues of great national importance. The government is not shying away and will never shy away, but is open to discussions within rules, conventions," Mr. Rijiju told presspersons after the all-party meeting.

The Minister emphasised that "*niyam* (rules)" and "*parampara* (conventions)" are important for the government.

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NEARBY

GST notices: State to take up issue with Centre

BENGALURU/MYSURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the State government will take up with the Centre the issue of small traders getting GST notices.
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Glimmer of hope for residents of Uralagallu

SHIVAMOGGA
Mescom has proposed to take up electrification of 54 households of Uralagallu village in Shivamogga. The proposal is a glimmer of hope for the villagers. » PAGE 3

EDUCATIONPLUS
» PAGES 4, 5 & 7

Minimum support gained to move for removal of Justice Varma, says Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said over 100 MPs had already signed a notice to bring a motion in Parliament for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court which is the minimum support required for tabling the impeachment motion in the Lok Sabha.

"The signature [exercise] is under way and it has crossed 100 already," Mr. Rijiju told presspersons after the all-party meeting. He said the Business Advisory Committee would decide when the motion were to be moved.

A motion for a judge's removal has to be signed by no fewer than 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha. The motion is likely to be tabled in the Lower House.

> The signature [exercise] is under way and it has crossed 100 already... until the matter is passed by the BAC with the Chair's approval, it is difficult for me to make an announcement outside
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU**
> Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Recommended removal

Wads of half-burnt currency notes were discovered at the outhouse of the then Delhi High Court judge Justice Varma by emergency service providers following a fire in March. A committee of three High Court judges appointed by the then Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, before his retirement had indicted him. The former CJI had referred the matter to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recommending Justice Varma's removal after he refused to resign.

Justice Varma, who was subsequently repatriated to the Allahabad High Court and kept off judicial work, had protested his innocence and moved the top court against the committee's findings.

Pending motion

On Saturday, Rajya Sabha member John Brittas of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the CPI's P. Sandosh Kumar had flagged the Opposition's pending impeachment motion against Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court for his alleged communal remarks, saying it was a test of Parliament's commitment to the constitutional value of secularism.

MEANINGFUL PROBE
» PAGE 10

State govt. constitutes SIT to probe into Dharmasthala burials case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Saturday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by Director-General of Police, Internal Security Division and Cyber Command, Pronab Mohanty, to probe into the allegations of a series of murders and burials at Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district.

The order issued on Saturday lists M.N. Anucheth, DIG (Recruitment); Sowmyalatha, DCP (CAR headquarters), Bengaluru, and Jitendra Kumar Dayama, Superintendent of Police, Internal Security Division, as members.

Pronab Mohanty

This comes amidst demands for a SIT from several sections of society, including the Karnataka State Commission for Women.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, speaking to presspersons had recently suggested that the government would take a decision on forming a SIT only after a police report.

The case springs from a former sanitation employee in the area, who has turned a whistle-blower, claiming to have buried multiple bodies of people allegedly "raped and murdered" at Dharmasthala over the past several years.

An FIR was registered based on his complaint and his statement was recorded before a magistrate recently.

The local police investigating the case had sought permission from the court to conduct a brain mapping and narco analysis on the complainant, and claimed that the investigation officer would decide as to when the bodies should be exhumed.

This had drawn the ire of many activists, strengthening demands for the formation of a SIT.

Lawyers Sachin Desai and Ojaswi Gowda, for the complainant in the case, had issued a press note a few days ago seeking a SIT led by Mr. Mohanty.

A delegation of lawyers had also met the Chief Minister and demanded a SIT.

Meanwhile, in a statement released on Sunday, K. Parshwanath Jain, spokesperson, Srikshetra Dharmasthala, said that "it is our sincere hope and earnest demand that the SIT conducts the highest level of investigation into this case and brings out the true facts to light."

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Tryst with history as India seeks to break Old Trafford jinx

Shubman Gill's men, who broke their duck at Edgbaston in the second Test against England, have an onerous task ahead of them; the ground where the Men in Blue suffered a heartbreaking loss in the 2019 World Cup semifinal was also the venue where Tendulkar scored his maiden Test hundred in a match-saving effort 35 years ago

R. Kaushik
MANCHESTER

Until a fortnight ago, India hadn't won a Test match at Edgbaston. Shubman Gill's men created history in Birmingham with their commanding 336-run win in the second Test, correcting one anomaly. This week, they will get a chance to set another record straight at Old Trafford, a ground where nine previous Tests have failed to yield a victory.

For various reasons, India have played a mere two Tests in Manchester in the preceding 35 years, the last of them 11 years ago. They were scheduled to play the fifth and final Test here in 2021 until the outbreak of Covid-19 in the ranks and the fear of what it might lead to forced Virat Kohli's men to fly out to Dubai holding a 2-1 lead. When India returned 12 months later, the Test was moved to Birmingham. By then, Rohit Sharma had replaced Kohli as the all-format captain but couldn't play the 'decider' due to Covid. In his first Test as stand-in skipper, Jasprit Bumrah oversaw a crushing seven-wicket loss with England hunting down a target of 378 with consummate ease, thanks to centuries from Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow as the hosts provided an early example of the 'Bazball' style of play that has since become their USP.

The worst of India's four losses dates to July 1952 when Vijay Hazare's side was battered by an innings and 207 runs by an English outfit under Len Hutton. The skipper's century headlined an England tally of 347 for nine declared, after which India had two disastrous outings with the bat. In the first innings, with the fiery Fred Trueman (8/31) scything through their line-up, the visitors were shot out for 58 - a dubious record that went out the window in 1974 when Ajit Wadekar and his men were skittled for 42 at Lord's by Chris Old and Geoff Arnold. In the second innings, Alec Bedser and Tony Lock complemented Trueman by sharing nine wickets, India collapsing in a heap for 82 with Hemu Adhikari's 27 the highest score by an Indian across the two innings. In all, the double-figure mark was breached just five times and there were six ducks.

India's last Test here was in August 2014, marked by further forgettable batting displays that netted them 152 and 161, which ensured that England's 367 was enough to drive them to an innings-and-54-run win. That was the series during which Kohli struggled to buy a run, aggregating just 134 in ten innings with a combination of James Anderson and the corridor of uncertainty his perennial bugbear. Kohli perished to the English swing king for 0 and 7, his travails mirroring that of his team's as they crashed and burned to a 1-3 hammering.

Big disappointment

The captain during that unedifying campaign was Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who was also at the helm when India wiped the floor 0-4 on the preceding tour in 2011 despite Rahul Dravid amassing 461 runs, studded by three centuries. That was just a few months before Dhoni abruptly announced his retirement from Test cricket during the tour of Australia over the winter, though the innings loss to Alastair Cook's men in 2014 wouldn't be the Jharkhandi's Old Trafford swansong.

Dhoni returned to Manchester for the 2019 50-over World Cup, making 1 and an unbeaten 56 in comfortable league wins over Pakistan and West Indies respectively. Then came the big one, the semifinal against New Zealand which spilled over to the reserve day.

When rain halted proceedings on the original match day (July 9), the Kiwis had laboured to 211 for five with Ross Taylor and Tom Latham holding fort. India's batting had been in roaring form throughout the tournament, propelled by an unprecedented five centuries in a single World Cup by Rohit Sharma. There was belief within the camp that even if New Zealand posted 250, they had the resources to overhaul that total - the depth in the batting was illustrated by Ravindra Jadeja's presence at No. 8.

At breakfast on the reserve day, Rishabh Pant - interestingly, one of four stumpers in that XI alongside Dhoni, K.L. Rahul and Dinesh Karthik - sought to know Dhoni's plans for the trip to London, ostensibly for the final. Some of the players intended to make the most of the early finish on the reserve day to drive individually to the English capital. Dhoni is supposed to have told his successor-in-waiting that he'd rather travel by the team bus 'one last time', the earliest indication that he was done with international cricket. As it transpired, it wouldn't be another 13 months until he'd formally announce his retirement through social media.

New Zealand scrambled to 239 for eight on the reserve day when they ran out of time, setting their opponents a challenging target magnified by the overhead conditions that were exactly what Trent Boult, Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson were praying for. In no time, the cream of the Indian batting, including Rohit and Kohli, were back in the hutch. At 24 for four in 10 overs with Henry breathing fire (he took three of those four wickets), India needed their famed depth to bail them out even if the odds were seriously stacked against them.

Pant and Hardik Pandya ground out 32 apiece but when the left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner accounted for the latter, India were all but out for the count, 92 for six after 30.3 overs. Jadeja's arrival at the crease brought the last recognised pair together, India needing 148 at more than seven over. Then began an extraordinary counter-attack with Jadeja in the forefront. Where Dhoni was content to play second fiddle and bide his time, the left-hander from Saurashtra cut loose uninhibitedly. There were four fours and as many sixes in his 59-ball 77 which easily dominated the seventh-wicket stand of 116.

The duo had brought the equation down to 32 off 20 when, against the run of play, Jadeja was foxed by a Boult slower delivery and holed out to Kane Williamson, the calmest man on the park. But Dhoni was still around and when Dhoni's around, there is still hope, isn't there? It was during this year's IPL, when Dhoni was 43; how could it not have been there when he was 37, no longer at his peak but still a fearsome force of nature?

Thirty-one were required off the last two overs when Ferguson fronted up for the 49th. Boult, Henry and Santner had all bowled out, Jimmy Neesham would bowl the last over. Dhoni was the master of taking it to the last over and everyone at the ground, all Kiwis included, believed Dhoni would mentally and psychologically stare Neesham down even if 20 were needed off the final six deliveries. It was a question of not getting out to Ferguson; instead, Dhoni went airborne as he scythed the first ball over point for six, after which he patted a yorker back to the bowler.

The third ball was short, banged into the pitch from wide of the crease, the line impeccable. Dhoni could only bunt it behind square, but he saw an opportunity to come back for the second. He did come back for the second, but fell fractionally short as an extraordinary direct hit, off-balance, from Martin Guptill charging in from the boundary shattered the stumps at the striker's end. It also shattered Indian hopes and aspirations. Dhoni was run out for an even 50 but no one cared, not least the protagonist himself. There was no applause for a half-century, just the deafening sound of silence while the Kiwis celebrated with gusto. If there was one moment that encapsulated India's Old Trafford travails, it was that.

Happy memories of the cricket ground that lies just half a mile across from the largest Premiership football stadium of the same name are few and far between, so why not reflect on potentially the most far-reaching of the lot, the first of an incredible 51 Test centuries by the little big man of Indian cricket? Sachin Tendulkar had been dismissed for 88 in Napier in February 1990, caught by future India coach John Wright off Danny Morrison. Had he reached three-figures, he would have become the youngest Test centurion at the time.

Tendulkar wasn't to be denied his maiden tryst with a hundred six months later. India were in a scrap for survival on the last day of the second Test, stumbling to 183 for six after being set 408 for victory. All the big guns - Ravi Shastri, Navjot Singh, Sanjay Manjrekar, Dilip Vengsarkar, skipper Mohammad Azharuddin and Kapil Dev - had come and gone, and only Kiran More and leggies Anil Kumble and Narendra Hirwani were to come when Tendulkar, batting at No. 6, was joined by No. 8 Manoj Prabhakar. England had nearly two and a half hours to winkle out the last four wickets and they believed if they split this alliance, the end would only be a few deliveries away.

The 17-year-old Tendulkar was in the early 20s at Prabhakar's arrival. He had shown glimpses of his genius in the first innings with a polished 68 that convinced the English that he was the real deal. But the second innings was a different kettle of fish.

The target was beyond India's reach, their only hope was to grind out a draw but against Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser, Chris Lewis and veteran off-spinner Eddie Hemmings, that was easier said than done. Despite his tender age and his lack of experience - it was just his ninth Test - Tendulkar instinctively knew that going into a shell was fraught with danger. And so he played his shots, not recklessly or on a song and a prayer, but with assurance and control with a stoic Prabhakar for company. A pushed three to long-off catapulted him past hundred, the thunderous ovation just the first of thousands that would accompany him till his last day as an international cricketer. Not quite 'Sa-chin, Saaaa-chin', though there's no prizes for guessing where the genesis of that chant lies.

THE GIST

- India have played a mere two Tests in Manchester in the preceding 35 years, the last of them 11 years ago
- The worst of India's four losses dates to July 1952 when Vijay Hazare's side was battered by an innings and 207 runs by an English outfit under Len Hutton
- India's last Test here was in August 2014, marked by further forgettable batting displays that netted them 152 and 161, which ensured that England's 367 was enough to drive them to an innings-and-54-run win

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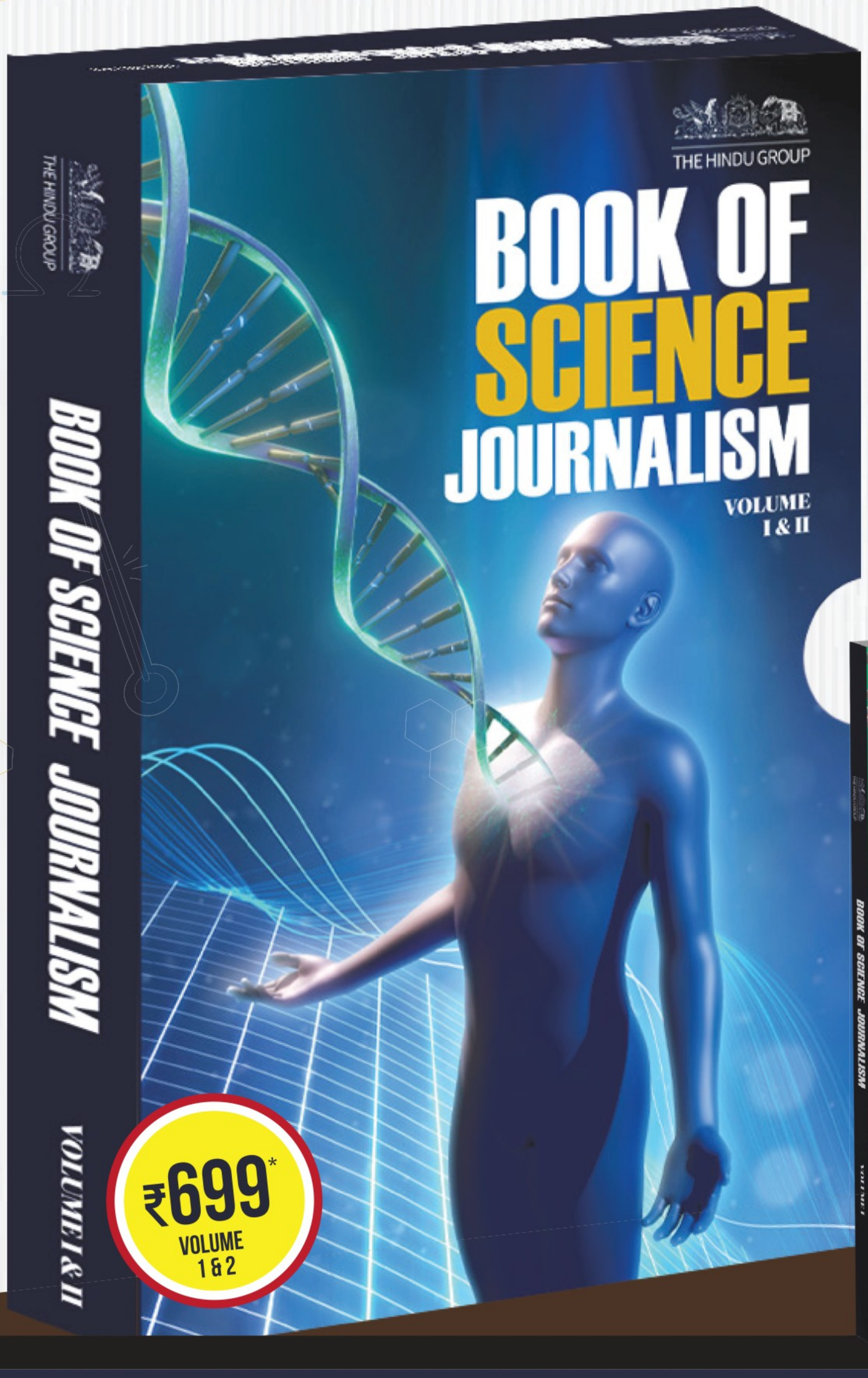

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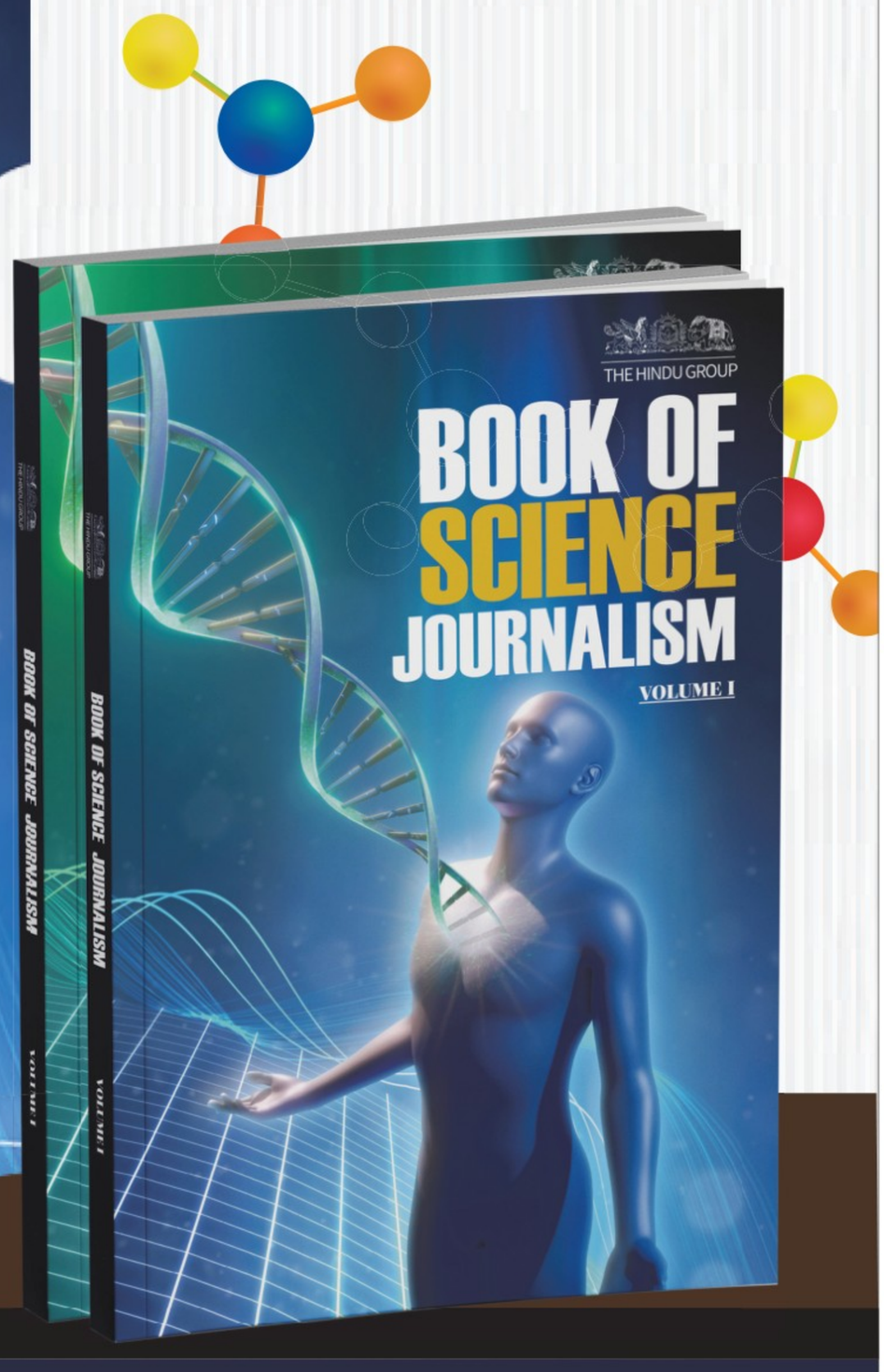

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City police personnel's silent cry for help answered by well-being programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramaiah (name changed), a traffic constable in Bengaluru North division, was battling more than just a spinal cord injury. Unable to work, he sank into deep depression, stopped going home, and left his wife and two children emotionally adrift. Fearful of losing his job and burdened by health issues and family distress, he reached a breaking point - untill a counselling session with a well-being officer changed everything.

The officer, Wazeera Begum, quickly identified the severity of Ramaiah's mental health struggles and facilitated access to the right treatment and support. Just as Ramaiah began to stabilise, tragedy struck again - his younger son suffered a rib fracture in an accident involving a buffalo. But he recovered again when his elder son emerged as one of the toppers in the class 10 exams. Now, after treatment and boosted family morale, Ramaiah is back at his job and also happy at home with his family.

Ramaiah is one of 43 police personnel identified by the mental health initiative of the city police as being at risk of taking extreme steps and saved in time. The programme, designed to support personnel facing emotional distress, has helped officers dealing with addiction, family crises, depression, and identity-related challenges.

In another case, a City Armed Reserve (CAR) constable in the dog training squad struggled with severe alcoholism and delusional behavior. Facing a Departmental Enquiry and possible dismissal, he entered the well-being programme. After assessment, he opted for aggressive de-addiction therapy and is now back at work with improved mental health.

These interventions are part of a growing effort to address the hidden mental health crisis among police personnel. "Many who came in for counselling had either attempted suicide or viewed the sessions as their last hope," said Siri Gowri, DCP, Traffic- North division, who serves as the nodal officer for the programme.

Over 50 sessions held

The initiative now has five well-being officers supporting over 20,000 personnel in the city. Launched last year under then-Commissioner B. Dayananda, the initiative has conducted over 50 sessions, with personnel joining voluntarily or on the advice of their superiors. The most common issues uncovered include addiction, extramarital affairs, family disputes, depression, and sexual identity challenges, especially among reserve force personnel and lower-ranking officers.

To deliver holistic care, the programme works with Victoria Hospital and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), offering expert diagnosis, medical treatment, counselling, and follow-up. However, uptake remains limited, especially among lower-rank staff, due to the persistent stigma around mental health, Ms. Gowri added.

The programme was initially funded through the Commissioner's Benevolent Fund, and later expanded through partnerships with a city-based psychiatric hospital and leading mental health institutions.

A case that galvanised the department involved a CAR constable who died by suicide in the Adugodi police quarters. He had accumulated heavy debt from online gambling, and his decomposed body was found days later. The investigation revealed he had been under extreme financial stress. In response, the department introduced financial counselling to help personnel manage money and make informed investments.

Dedicated Tele-MANAS line for police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major step forward, Bengaluru city police is all set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIMHANS to establish a dedicated Tele-MANAS counselling line exclusively for police personnel. This will allow quicker access to mental health support, while officers will receive regular training and guidance from experts.

Garment workers demand an end to wage discrimination

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Demanding an end to wage discrimination of garment workers, the Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) has asked the State government to provide dignified working conditions and repeal the new labour codes, during a convention of garment workers in the city on Sunday.

Prathibha, president, GATWU, pointed out that while workers in other scheduled industries receive a minimum wage of around ₹18,000 per month, garment workers are still stuck at ₹12,800.

'Left out'

"The recent minimum wage notification issued in April 2025 shockingly excluded industries like garments where women are concentrated, proposing minimum wages of ₹25,000 for other industries," she said. She questioned how such discrimination could be made and demanded an end to it.

Nirmala, State vice-president of AICCTU, declared the convention a warning to the government. "If the discrimination against garment workers continues–if they are left out of wage revisions and forced into unsafe, exploitative working conditions–garment workers will take to the streets and take their rights."

BBMP begins work to upgrade 75 junctions

These interventions will not only make design corrections, but will add several features that will provide both safety and comfort for pedestrians and beautify the junctions, say officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally issued work orders for improving 75 prominent junctions in the city, at an estimated cost of ₹100 crore. The project has been divided into 15 packages, and contractors are expected to finish work within the next six months.

The project Suraksha Mission - 75 was announced in the 2023-24 State Budget by then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, along with several other schemes to mark 75 years of Indian Independence. However, the project did not take off for two and a half years to be revived recently. Work has finally begun on the selected junctions.

M. Lokesh, Chief Engineer, Road Works, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), said the project will mainly focus on making these junctions safe for both motorists and pedestrians. "We will undertake geometry corrections to streamline traffic, avoid accidents, and make it safe for pedestrians. We are also looking at beautification of these junctions," he said. Apart from putting bollards for pedestrian pathways, lane markers, zebra crossings, and other road markers, civic officials will also clear adjacent shoulder drains to prevent flooding, build ramps, provide some seating arrangement, and wherever there is space, put up fountains, ornamental plants, and lighting to beautify these junctions. Water fountains will help keep the air fresh and reduce pollution, officials said.

Work under way on the new intersection at BHEL junction in Deepanjali Nagar in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Suraksha Mission - 75

Divided into **15 packages;** work orders issued to contractors

Deadline: **6 months**

Improvement of 75 prominent junctions in the city at an estimated cost of ₹100 crore

Prominent junctions being improved under Suraksha Mission-75

K. R. Market, Makkala Koota Circle, Deve Gowda petrol station junction, Sarakki, Arakere, Kudlu Gate, Sumanahalli junction, Kengeri bus terminal circle, Minsk Square, Basaveshwara Circle, Hennur junction, Windsor Manor junction, Anil Kumble Circle, Nagavara junction, Tin factory, Marathahalli junction, K.R. Puram junction, Yelahanka New Town, Veerannapalya bus stand junction, Nagarabhavi Circle, Nayandahalli junction, 8th mile junction, Jalahalli Cross

The project was announced in the 2023-24 State Budget by then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, along with several other schemes to mark 75 years of Indian Independence

Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, World Resources Institute (WRI), India, which collaborated with BBMP on Surkasha Mission - 75, said that the junctions were selected after careful study of accidents and fatalities, especially of pedestrians. "These interventions will not only make design corrections, but will add several features that will provide both safety and comfort for pedestrians," he said.

Apart from these, BBMP has also taken up road geometry corrections atop underpasses at Mehkri and C.N.R. Rao Circles, where the civic body will take up beautification works, sources said.

BBMP will take up work to improve 20 more junctions using funds from the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Work is on to identify junctions to be taken up for interventions under this programme, sources said.

Man held for stabbing relative of Instagram 'friend'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HAL police have registered a case of attempt to murder against the accused Karthik

The HAL police arrested a 26-year-old private firm employee on Friday for stabbing the relative of a woman he had befriended on Instagram after he was asked to stop stalking her.

The accused, identified as Selva Karthik from Krishnagiri, was working as a sales executive at private vehicle manufacturing company in Hosur, and had befriended a married woman from Kaggadasapura a few months ago, with whom he used to chat online. The woman later stopped communicating with him. Irked by this, Karthik started threatening her.

The victim narrated the ordeal to her father, who called Karthik and warned him to stay away. However, Karthik reportedly came to the city on Thursday on the pretext of talking with the woman.

Following this, Shekar V., the father of the woman, along with his brother-in-law Prashanth and son-in-law Shiva went to Malleshpalya in order to bring Karthik along with them.

While Prashanth was riding one scooter with Karthik as pillion, Shekhar and Shiv were on another scooter. Karthik allegedly stabbed Prashanth on his neck from the back. Prashanth was taken to a hospital, where he is being treated.

Based on a complaint by Shekhar, the HAL police registered a case of attempt to murder against Karthik, tracked him down. The police arrested him from a hotel where he had stopped to have lunch.

UGNEET: Option entry begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The process for entering options for admission to medical degree courses has begun and will be open until 6 p.m. on July 22, according to the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

It has been reviewed and uploaded after the seat matrix was recieved from the Department of Medical Education. Candidates have been advised to carefully enter their options.

City resident drowns at Abbi Falls in Shivamogga dist.

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A tourist from Bengaluru died after drowning at Abbi falls at Yadur in Hosanagar taluk on Sunday.

Ramesh, 44, a resident of Nagarbhavi, slipped and fell into the waterfall as he failed to maintain balance on a rocky surface at the spot.

His body was found later. The Hosanagar police have registered a case.

Govt. schools will not be shut down, says Minister Madhu Bangarappa

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Madhu Bangarappa has said that no schools –government and Kannada medium– in the State would be closed for any reason.

"Government and Kannada-medium schools in the State will not be closed for any reason. We have deputed teachers and midday meals workers in schools with zero admission to other schools. If students enroll, we will restart those schools," said the Minister.

During an interaction with *The Hindu*, he said that there were many schools in the State where only one student was enrolled, which were also not closed. "We have not closed any Kannada medium schools and have emphasised on starting bilingual classes," he said.

Mr. Bangarappa said that steps have been taken to open school clusters on the model of Karnataka Public Schools (KPS). "There are about 308 KPS across the State, and there is a huge demand for these schools from students and parents. In this context, it has also been considered to open school clusters and provide free transport facilities to students," he said.

Minister Madhu Bangarappa, at an interaction with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Bilingual schools

Mr. Bangarappa further said that in 2023, the State government started 1000 bilingual schools, and they were such a big success that the State Budget of 2025-26 announced the setting up of another 4000 bilingual schools and that they were already sanctioned.

"To provide quality English education in government schools, the English Medium Teacher Induction Programme (EMTIP) is being provided to teachers of classes 1 to 4, in association with Azim Premji Foundation, and 20,000 teachers have already been trained in English. It ensures access to English language education for students of all sections of society. And, Spoken English classes are being conducted for students from classes 1 to 8 in all government schools. Modules have been prepared for each class, and KPS teachers have been trained at Regional Institute of English (RIE). So far 38,56,826 students benefited from this," he said.

The Minister further said that the LKG and UKG classes started in government schools were a big success. "We have started LKG-UKG classes in 5,000 government schools across the State this year, and the response has been great," he said, adding that the lack of LKG-UKG classes in government schools was pushing parents to admit their children in private schools.

"The Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) in Kalyana Karnataka established 1,008 pre-primary schools last year, almost towards the beginning of the admission season. In just four-days, 40,000 children got admissions into these schools," he said.

Raid on pub; four held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cubbon Park police raided a pub on Rest House Road on Saturday and arrested four persons, including a 25-year-old drug peddler, for organising an event that served liquor and tobacco products to guests in the presence of minor children. The raid was based on a tip-off.

The accused have been identified as Tushar Gowda, 25, who possesed three grams of ganja, pub manager Prasanna Das, Deepthi C.A., 23, and Atheesh Kumar Gowda, 27, who organised the event.

The police said around 100 people, including 10 minors, were present in the pub during the raid.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 21	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 02:12	SET 15:38
TUESDAY, JUL. 22	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 03:12	SET 16:42
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 23	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 04:16	SET 17:44

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	19
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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This is to inform the general Public that my clients **Mr. PRAVEEN KUMAR. N.A** S/o Sri Appaji Gowda, Aged about 33 years, & **Mrs.SUMA N.A** D/o Sri. Appaji Gowda, Aged about 30 years, Residing at Nidasale Village Nidasale Post, Huliyurudurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District-572123 are intended to purchase this property i.e., Vacant property bearing **Site No.S-810,** formed in the land bearing Survey No.63/3, 67/2, 67, 68, 69/1, 69/2, 70/3, 70/4, 70/6, 71/1, 71/1(P), 72/2, 72/3, 72/4, 72/5, 73/1, 73/2, 73/3, 73/4, 74, 75, 76, 176 and 178 of Herohalli Village and the layout formed by the Bharat Electronics Employees Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., measuring East by: 12.00 meters, West by: 12.50 meters, North by: 18.30 meters and South by: 18.30 meters, totally measuring 224.17 square meters, situated at 2nd stage, "BHARATH NAGAR", Bharat Electronics Employees Co-operative House Building Society layout (BEL layout), Herohalli Village (Magadi Road), Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.72 of Herohalli, **from the Present owner SRI. S. RAJASHEKAR,** the owner has handed over the Xerox copies of the documents which are in the custody of my client. Any person having any right, claim, title, interest or possession over the property may file their objection/s to the under signed with valid documentary proof within 15 days and if no valid objection/s are received in respect of property, my client will proceed to purchase the above said property with assumption that, there are no objections or claim or title or interest or possession whatsoever nature from any person/s for purchasing the property from client.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant property bearing **Site No.S-810,** formed in the land bearing Survey No.63/3, 67/2, 67, 68, 69/1, 69/2, 70/3, 70/4, 70/6, 71/1, 71/1(P), 72/2, 72/3, 72/4, 72/5, 73/1, 73/2, 73/3, 73/4, 74, 75, 76, 176 and 178 of Herohalli Village and the layout formed by the Bharat Electronics Employees Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., measuring East by: 12.00 meters, West by: 12.50 meters, North by: 18.30 meters, and South by: 18.30 meters, totally measuring 224.17 square meters, situated at 2nd stage, "BHARATH NAGAR", Bharat Electronics Employees Co-operative House Building Society layout (BEL layout), Herohalli Village (Magadi Road), Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.72 of Herohalli and bounded on the: East by: 60 feet Road, West by : Property bearing Site No. 809, North by: 40 feet Road, South by: Property bearing Site No. 811.

N.Shiva Murthy, Advocate
No.199, 3-B Complex,
Shop No.6, 13th Cross, 2nd Stage,
WOC Road, Mahalakshmipuram,
Bangalore - 560 086.
Ph: 9844358516

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru-560001.

TRC No: 250/18

Indian Overseas Bank, No.28, 27th Cross, Near Monotype Bus Stop, Represented by its Manager Sri V.Swaminathan ...Certificate Holder
Versus
Smt. B.Triveni ...Defendants

DEMAND NOTICE

1 Smt. B.Triveni, W/o Guruprasad K.S., Residing at No.18/C, Dattatreya Temple Road, T.K.Thimmarayagowda Layout, Hosakerehali BSK Stage, Bangalore-560085.
In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **TA No.186/2017 (OA No.538/2016)** passed by the **Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore** an amount of **Rs.47,92,078/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Seventy Eight Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.
In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days from the date of publishing, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:
"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the **Debts Recovery Officer,** nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.
2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".
3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **26th day of April 2018.**
Sd/- Recovery Officer-2
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bangalore.

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Mental fatigue can trick the brain into taking the easy way out

Even sedentary work can feel exhausting when sustained for hours together. This exhaustion is called cognitive fatigue and builds up with continuous effort to maintain focus on daily tasks. While cognitive fatigue affects our performance and focus, a new study has found that it also influences decision-making by making one prefer easier tasks

Sheetal Potdar

After a long day at work, it's easier to flop on the couch than hit the gym. Scrolling over social media wins over reading a book. Our exhausted brains favour easier tasks, even if – according to a new study in the *Journal of Neuroscience* – those tasks offer fewer benefits.

Even sedentary work can feel exhausting when sustained for hours together. This exhaustion is called cognitive fatigue and builds up with continuous effort to maintain focus on daily tasks. While cognitive fatigue affects our performance and focus, the new study has found that it also influences decision-making by making one prefer easier tasks.

"Everybody has different capacities for work," Vikram Chib of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the lead author of the study said. "We all have a subjective sense of effort – what you may find easy, I might find difficult." The study also provides a neurobiological model to explore how fatigue can influence everyday decisions.

Mental fatigue can directly change the value of some effort, making the task seem more demanding than if a person was rested. TONY TRAN/UNSPLASH

'Really cool'

But first, how does sustained effort build up to cognitive fatigue, and how does it affect decisions about exerting further effort?

To answer these questions, researchers recruited healthy volunteers to repeatedly perform a working memory task. These individuals focused on a screen flashing different letters one by one. In the easy version of the task, they had to recall if the current letter matched the preceding one. As the task got harder, volunteers had to recall if the current letter matched with those displayed anywhere between two to six letters prior. After performing the harder tasks many times in a row, participants reported feeling fatigued.

Next, the participants were offered two choices: easy version of the task for less money or difficult version of the task for more money. Fatigued participants chose the easy option even if it meant earning less money, whereas they opted for harder tasks for more money when they were rested.

"It was really cool to see something we expected but was never quantified before, that fatigue actually influenced the participants' choices," Dr. Chib said.

While the participants made their choices, the researchers tracked their brain activity using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). This noninvasive technique allows scientists to pinpoint brain regions that are active during a task. As participants performed the working memory task and reported feeling fatigued, fMRI revealed the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dlPFC), located just behind the forehead, was activated, in line with its understood role.

fMRI scans also revealed the right anterior insula was active when the participants made their choices. This region judges whether the effort required for a task is worth the reward. In previous studies from Dr. Chib's group, the insula had been found to estimate the effort of performing a physical task while physically fatigued.

Pushing harder

In this study, the role of the insula was extended to evaluating cognitive effort. "This is our current working model of where effort is evaluated in the brain. The insula receives input of fatigue resulting from working memory tasks from the dlPFC and of fatigue resulting from physical tasks from the motor cortex, and it guides decisions about future effort based on the level of fatigue," Dr. Chib explained.

"A big strength of this study is that it finds connectivity linking exertion to choice," Antonius Wiehler, a researcher studying motivation and cognitive fatigue at the Paris Brain Institute, said. Indeed, Dr. Chib and his team found that signals from the dlPFC representing fatigue influenced the neural activity of the insula. This meant fatigue directly changed the value of effort, making the task seem more demanding than when a person was rested.

> A big strength of this study is that it finds connectivity linking exertion to choice
>
> **ANTONIUS WIEHLER**
> Paris Brain Institute

The researchers also reported a peculiar observation: while participants reported feeling fatigued as they performed the hard tasks repeatedly, their performance didn't dip. The researchers interpreted this to mean that as people performed harder tasks, the fatigue made them pick easier tasks rather than compromise their performance.

Dr. Wiehler, who wasn't part of the study, agreed: "When the stakes are high and the benefits are clear, such as in this study, people can still use cognitive resources despite needing elevated effort. However, when benefits are uncertain or subjective, like in market decisions, the increased cost leads to behavioural changes."

We have all experienced this in our daily lives: when a deadline looms, we push ourselves harder to finish a task at hand despite needing more effort.

The study also opens new questions. Dr. Wiehler, who induces cognitive fatigue on much longer time scales (up to six hours) in his research, wondered, "How are short-term and long-term fatigue effects related? How are cognitive capacities restored after a night of sleep?"

Can cognitive fatigue influence effort-based choices for any task? "We have a new study coming up where we report that cognitive fatigue, as induced here with the working memory tasks, makes participants choose even a physical task requiring less effort," Dr. Chib said.In other words, there may be a neurobiological reason to avoid the gym when one is mentally exhausted.

Time for a break

Cognitive fatigue is a common symptom of many neurological and psychiatric conditions. Patients who have suffered stroke and those suffering from multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome, depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia have reported mental fatigue. Yet the way fatigue manifests in these conditions is poorly defined. The new study is a step towards developing ways to manage fatigue by understanding how it affects effort and decision-making in the brain.

How can we avoid fatigue skewing our daily decisions? Dr. Chib advised being "mindful about taking breaks. While we haven't directly tested it, reframing tasks can also help." The next time you catch yourself making a poor but easy choice while mentally tired, you know it's time for a break.

(Sheetal Potdar has a PhD in neuroscience and works as a science writer. sheetaldpotdar@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Volunteers in a study had two choices: an easy version of a task for less money or a difficult version for more. Fatigued participants chose the easy option even if it meant earning less, whereas they opted for harder tasks for more money when they were rested

Researchers reported that while participants reported fatigue as they performed hard tasks, their performance didn't dip. This was interpreted to mean that as people performed harder tasks, the fatigue made them pick easier tasks rather than compromise performance

Cognitive fatigue is a symptom of many neurological conditions. Yet the way fatigue manifests here is poorly defined. The new study is a step towards developing ways to manage fatigue by understanding how it affects effort and decision-making in the brain

BIG SHOT

Firefighters combat a wildfire on peatland in Riau province, Indonesia, on July 20, 2025. These fires can be challenging to extinguish due to the nature of peat, which burns slowly and deeply, producing smoke and haze, which can spread to neighbouring countries like Malaysia and Singapore, causing air quality issues. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Moon Day: remembering the leap

The Hindu Bureau

An aircraft passes in front of the moon; the red glow is attributable to smoke particles from North American wildfires, a day ahead of the full supermoon on August 18, 2024. REUTERS

Q International Moon Day is celebrated every year on July 20 to commemorate humankind's first landing on the moon by the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. The UN General Assembly formally recognised this date in 2021, following a proposal recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The commemoration also aims to highlight the collective progress of all nations in exploring the moon.

On the day, activities like public events, sky-gazing, educational outreach, and science competitions are organised worldwide to inspire curiosity and foster interest in space science, especially among the youth. According to the UN, International Moon Day also serves to promote sustainable practices in space, international cooperation, peaceful exploration, and the responsible use of lunar resources.

There have been minor criticisms related to the chosen date. Some commentators have noted that while the Apollo 11 lunar module landed on July 20, Armstrong's first step technically occurred at 2:56 UTC on July 21. This ambiguity has occasionally prompted debate over whether July 21 is more accurate to commemorate. There is also occasional commentary questioning whether the date, rooted in an American achievement, fully encompasses the international spirit intended by the UN, more so since other nations have contributed significantly to lunar exploration.

Despite these discussions, July 20 remains globally recognised for now as the date humankind first leapt beyond the earth.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

GST notices to traders: State to take up issue with Centre

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says it will also be discussed with the Karnataka Commercial Taxes Department before a decision is taken

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the State government will take up with the Centre the issue of small traders getting GST notices from the Commercial Taxes Department for transactions through UPI. He also made it clear that the issue would be discussed with the State Commercial Taxes Department before taking a decision in this regard.

"The Goods and Sales Tax (GST) Council comes under the purview of the Centre. However, the State government will take up the matter with the Union government and discuss it with the State's Commercial Taxes Department, and take a decision," Mr. Siddaramaiah told pressperson in Mysuru.

It may be noted that a section of the small and micro traders in the State have taken exception to getting notices with respect to taxes based on their transactions via UPI.

Creating trouble

Meanwhile, asking the small traders not to worry about the GST-related notices, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar accused the Union government of creating trouble for small traders and street vendors by introducing GST.

"Notices are being issued to those who are conducting business of over ₹40 lakh," he said in Hoskote, near here, where an event was organised to distribute government benefits. He said: "This is the achievement of the Union government. The traders do not have to worry. We will take necessary actions to protect their interests."

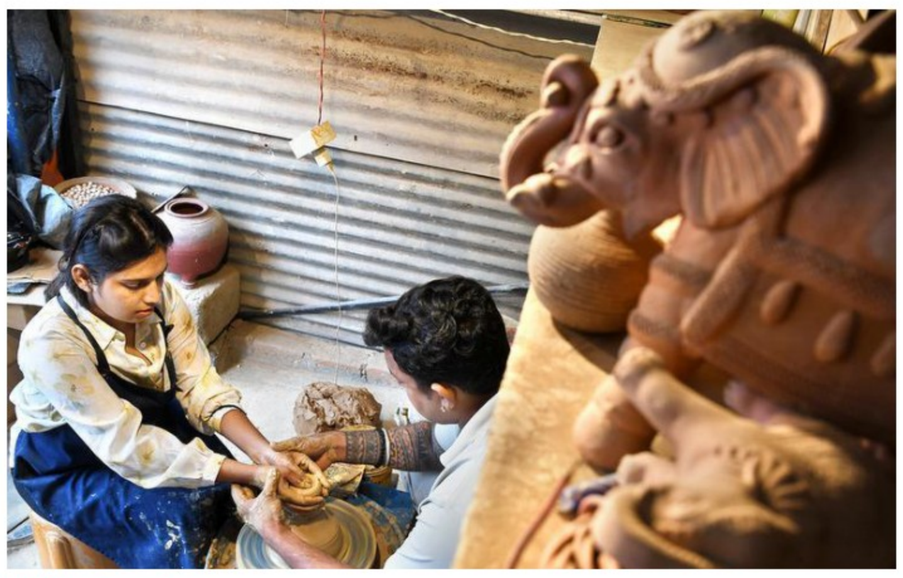
The Deputy Chief Minister said though the State had appealed to the Centre several times seeking funds over the last two years, the BJP MPs are not speaking. "They are not concerned about the poor in the State."

Accusing the BJP of not doing enough, he said that the Congress government was committed to getting Yettinahole waters to Bengaluru North district before 2027 and the government had decided to prepare a DPR to bring metro to Hoskote. "We will ensure it is approved during our term."

Mr. Shivakumar also pointed out that the government had taken steps to regularise B-khata properties in Bengaluru, and that over a crore patta khatas are being given to Scheduled Tribes.

Small traders are getting GST notices from the Commercial Taxes Department for transactions through UPI. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Intent learner



Hands-on experience: A woman learning the art of pottery from a traditional artisan at Pottery Town in Bengaluru on Sunday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

'BJP under illusion that it can benefit by creating rift between DKS and me'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that the BJP was under an "illusion" of taking political advantage by creating a rift between him and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

When asked about BJP leaders' claim that Mr. Siddaramaiah had "insulted" his deputy by skipping his name at the *Sadhana Samavesha* in Mysuru on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the leaders of the saffron party were always trying to find fault where there was none.

Pointing out that it was customary to take the names of only persons who were present at the function, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Mr. Shivakumar had already left the programme citing prior engagement.

"When he was not present at the programme, how does the question of insult arise?", he questioned.

The BJP, which is under an "illusion" of taking political advantage by creating a rift between the two of them, will remain under such an illusion, he added.

Mr. Shivakumar, who was also present on the occasion, said he left the venue after informing the Chief Minister of his prior engagement.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa during a visit to the Kabini dam in Mysuru district on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

On his way to Bengaluru from Mysuru, Mr. Shivakumar said his convoy met with an accident, but nobody suffered any grievous injuries.

He said he had left Mysuru early as he had to keep an appointment with an advocate. "It was a private visit. There was no politics involved," he said, adding that he finished his appointment and had returned to Mysuru.

Mysuru event held to floor Dy. CM, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has described the episode of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah not acknowledging the earlier presence of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the *Sadhana Samavesha* in Mysuru as a clear indication of internal rift in the Congress coming out in open.

The party has also termed the Mysuru programme as an event organised to sideline and floor Mr. Shivakumar rather than project the government's achievements.

Speaking to pressperson here on Sunday, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said the public meeting had exposed the internal rift within Congress.

"The meeting was held to teach Mr. Shivakumar a lesson. Mr. Shivakumar has now been reduced to being a second-class citizen in in his own party. It was not a government programme; it was a ritual to politically finish off Mr. Shivakumar," he said.

"This is a feud between Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah. The BJP does not need to topple this government; it will collapse due to internal conflicts. AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala came to the State and heard the grievances of MLAs. But their disputes are now out in the open," he remarked.

Taking serious exception to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "barker", Mr. Ashok said such comments reflected the mindset of Congress leaders.

"The language used by Mr. Kharge is shameful and beneath the dignity of public life. Knowing that they will not come to power, they are resorting to such low-level remarks," he alleged.

From "Maut ka Saudagar" to "Zehreela Saap" to now this, personal abuse has become the only political currency of the Congress, he alleged.

HC expresses shock over criminal case against Assistant Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has expressed shock over the action of the Forest Department in registering a criminal case against an Assistant Commissioner (AC) of the Revenue Department for passing a quasi-judicial order describing certain land as 'Government Gomal' against the claim made by the Forest Department that it was 'forestland'.

"What shocks the conscience of the court is the Forest Department registering a crime for the performance of the AC's quasi-judicial functions. As an Assistant Commissioner, looking into the records, he has passed an order, not bartering away the forestland to private entity, but observing it as a 'Sarkari Gomala' under the Revenue Department," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by B.A. Jagadeesh, the then AC of Hassan sub-division, who is now working as Project Director, Hassan District Urban Development Cell.

The complaint before the Hassan judicial magistrate was lodged by IFoS officer Saurabh Kumar, the then Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hassan territorial division, in 2024.

AC's order

The AC passed the order on January 5, 2022, declaring certain land, situated in Tyavalli village, Shanthigrama hobli, Hassan taluk, as 'Sarkari (government) gomal' land and was being used by many persons to access their private land.

Stating that the land was 'government gomal' in the Records of Tenancy and Rights (RTC) for many years, but was classified as 'forest' in the recent RTCs, but the Forest Department had not produced documents based on which the RTC entries were changed.

However, the Hassan Deputy Commissioner, on an appeal filed by the Forest Department, passed a quasi-judicial order asking the AC to consider the issue afresh giving sufficient opportunity of hearing to the Forest Department.

Interestingly, the Forest Department, soon after the Deputy Commissioner remanded the issue back to the AC, registered the criminal complaint on January 27, 2024, against the petitioner, who was by then not holding the post of AC, Hassan sub-division.

"After having filed an appeal and securing an order of remand to consider the issue afresh, it did not lie with the Forest Department to register a crime against the petitioner for having performed his quasi-judicial functions, unless it is found the exercise of such function is laced with criminality and foundationed on *mens rea*," the court observed while noticing that the petitioner had not given the land to any private persons.

Miscarriage of justice

Allowing continuation of criminal proceedings against the petitioner in such circumstances would result in the miscarriage of justice and become an abuse of the process of the law, the court said while quashing the complaint.

A glimmer of hope for Uralagallu residents

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Mangaluru Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) has proposed to take up electrification of 54 households of Uralagallu village, located amid the forests of Sagar taluk in Shivamogga. The proposal is a glimmer of hope for the villagers, who have been waiting for electricity for over six decades.

All these years, they faced stiff opposition from the Forest Department to lay a power line in the forest area of the Kargal range. Following demonstrations and a protest march in 2022, Mescom officials have worked out a proposal to supply power by providing six transformers and laying 26.8 km of underground cables and 17.25 route km of overhead low-tension (LT) lines. The Mescom officials submitted the proposal for forest clearance this March 28. For the project, with an estimated cost of ₹6.4 crore, the agency requires 1.13 hectares of forestland and non-forestland of 0.63 ha.

Families, who settled at Uralagallu in Sagar taluk after they were displaced owing to the construction of the Linganamakki dam, have been struggling without basic amenities. FILE PHOTO

Praveen P., assistant executive engineer of Mescom in the Sagar division, told *The Hindu* that the proposal was under the scrutiny of forest officials.

When *The Hindu* contacted Prasanna Krishna Patagar, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) in Shivamogga, he said that the proposal was being verified technically by the Information Communication Technology wing. "The team will verify the technical details and maps submitted by the project proponent. Later, it will be considered for clearance," he added.

Families, who settled in the village after they were displaced owing to the construction of the Linganamakki dam, have been struggling without basic amenities. Without access to a proper road and schools, they send their children to residential schools at a young age.

Whenever the schools resume after the vacations, the parents walk 10 km in the forest area to drop their children at the nearest bus stop. "For several years, no officer representing the State government took the trouble to visit our village. But even representatives of the Bankuli panchayat have not visited the village as there is no road," said Nagaraj S., a resident of Salakodu, a hamlet in the village.

The residents said that their forefathers moved to the village in the 1960s. They felt the land was fertile for agricultural activities and settled there. They grew paddy and later shifted to plantation crops, including areca.

The nearest anganwadi centre is at Kanur, about 10 km from the village. Following a series of protests and appeals, senior officers of the Shivamogga district administration assured the people of visiting the village.

"But the officers did not visit us. They held a meeting at the gram panchayat office and returned," said Mr. Nagaraj.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Hymns found in hospital register

A routine inspection of a government hospital at Jewargi town in Kalaburagi district threw up a big surprise for the Karnataka Lokayukta officials a few days ago. The team led by Superintendent of Police (Lokayukta) Siddaraju and his Deputy Geetha Benal were there to check on students from Maradagi S.A. village who were hospitalised after falling ill after eating contaminated midday meals.

While scanning the hospital's out-patient department (OPD) register, they stumbled upon something unusual: instead of patient records, pages were filled with devotional songs and hymns. They also found the popular Kannada song 'Poojisalende hoogala tande, Darushana kori naa ninde, Tereyo bagilanu, Rama..." from *Eradu Kanasu*.

Mr. Siddaraju reprimanded the hospital staff for treating an official medical register in this fashion. The matter took a more serious turn as patients came forward with complaints of negligence and irregularities in medical care.

Boating plans on Sharavati

After the construction of the Sigandur Chowdeshwari bridge across the Sharavati backwaters in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga, ferries that operated all these years have lost demand. Operators are facing the threat of losing their jobs.

Meanwhile, Sagar MLA Belur Gopalkrishna (Congress) has come up with an idea to make use of the ferries and their operators by the Department of Tourism. The MLA plans to introduce aqua sports here. He also suggested that the existing two ferries can be converted into hotels on the waterbody.

While one parked at one corner of the water surface can offer vegetarian food, the other can serve non-vegetarian food, he said. Earlier, Mr. Gopalkrishna suggested that rain dance could be introduced at the Jog Falls on the lines of Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad. The idea had not gone down well with many.

Kumar Buradikatti
Sathish G.T.

ONGC
CAUVERY ASSET, KARAIKAL

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS FOR HIRING GDU, DPD SERVICE

M/s ONGC India, Karaikal, invites eligible and experienced vendors to participate in the pre-qualification process for providing service for Gas **Dehydration, Dew Point Depression, and Allied Facilities at the CY-ONN-2002/2 NELP Block, Madanam (Near Chidambaram), Tamil Nadu.**

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rabies deaths reported in Karnataka since February

19 In the past six months, Karnataka has recorded more than 2.3 lakh dog bite cases, indicating a sharp increase compared to the corresponding period last year, according to official data released on Sunday. In all of 2024, the State reported 3.6 lakh dog bite cases and 42 rabies deaths. PTI

Number of children in Onge tribe who have cleared class 10 exam

9 "This is the first time Onge students have reached this educational milestone. Their admissions were formalised and their classes commenced on July 15," said Prakash Tirkey, school teacher at Dugong Creek in Little Andaman. Onges are semi-nomadic and used to be fully dependent on hunting and gathering for food. PTI

MPs who have signed notice to bring motion against Justice Varma

100 Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said over 100 MPs have already signed a notice to bring a motion in Parliament for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, crossing the threshold of support required for tabling the impeachment exercise in the Lok Sabha. PTI

Number of schooling years children could lose due to heatwave

1.5 in years. A report compiled by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring team, Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education project and University of Saskatchewan has pointed out that over the past 20 years, schools were closed in at least 75% of the extreme weather events, impacting five million people or more. PTI

Number of new polling stations created in Bihar

12,000 A release issued by the election department on Saturday said that the total number of polling stations has risen to 90,712 from 77,895, after the establishment of 12,817 new ones in Bihar. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is Israel committing genocide in Gaza?

Why did South Africa take Israel to the International Court of Justice? What does international law say about genocide? Do international experts believe Israel has genocidal intent? Can the UN take stronger action? What role are powerful countries playing?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

In January 2024, South Africa initiated proceedings against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), alleging that Israel's military campaign in Gaza amounted to genocide. The application was filed just over two months after the Hamas-led attacks of October 7, 2023. Although the court has not yet ruled on the merits of the charge, it has issued a series of binding provisional measures, including repeated directives to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza. These interim orders reflect the court's preliminary assessment that a "plausible" risk of genocide exists. In the months since, conditions in Gaza have grown increasingly dire. In March, Israel violated a six-week ceasefire and resumed its assault on the besieged enclave. Entire neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, families decimated, and access to food, water, and electricity remains critically limited. As the humanitarian crisis worsens, a global consensus is emerging. Heads of state, senior United Nations officials, and leading international jurists are increasingly characterising Israel's conduct in Gaza as genocidal.

What is genocide?

The term genocide was coined in 1944 by Polish-Jewish jurist Raphael Lemkin and formally recognised as a crime under international law by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1946. In the aftermath of the horrors of the Holocaust, the UNGA unanimously adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention) in 1948. The Convention defines genocide as acts committed with "the intent to destroy, in whole or in substantial part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group". It is considered the gravest of international crimes, and its prohibition constitutes a non-derogable peremptory norm (*jus cogens*) of international law.

Because of its status as a *jus cogens* norm, the duty to prevent and punish genocide gives rise to an *erga omnes* obligation – one owed to the international community as a whole. This means that all states, regardless of their direct involvement in a conflict, are legally bound to act against genocide wherever it occurs. It is on this basis that South Africa, a party that is technically unrelated to the conflict in Gaza, claims standing to bring the case to the ICJ.

Proving that genocide has occurred requires establishing two essential elements: the act itself and the intent behind it. The first element, known as *actus reus*, refers to one or more of five specific acts committed against a protected group. These include killing members of the group; causing them serious bodily or mental harm; deliberately inflicting conditions intended to bring about the group's physical destruction; imposing measures to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children to another group.

Equally critical is the *mens rea*, or mental element, which requires not just a general intent to carry out these acts, but a specific intent (*dolus specialis*) to destroy the group, in whole or in part. This rare intent is what sets genocide apart from other mass atrocities. While other crimes may involve the indiscriminate or deliberate killing of civilians as individuals, genocide is characterised by the targeting of individuals as members of a group, with the aim of annihilating the group's capacity to survive or reconstitute itself as a political, social, or cultural entity.

Tensions rise: Genocide is characterised by the targeting of individuals as members of a group, with the aim of annihilating the group's capacity to survive or reconstitute itself. AFP

What are the main claims against Israel, and how has Israel responded?

Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, told the Human Rights Council last year that there were reasonable grounds to believe Israel had crossed the threshold for committing genocide. In her report, she pointed to the systematic destruction not only of residential areas but also of critical infrastructure, including hospitals, universities, mosques, water systems, agricultural zones, and cultural heritage sites, as evidence of a policy aimed at making Palestinian life in Gaza unsustainable. Her assessment has been echoed by prominent rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights.

The scale of destruction appears to lend further credence to these claims. In June, a UN Commission of Inquiry found that Israeli air strikes, shelling, burning and controlled demolitions had destroyed more than 90% of schools and university buildings across the Gaza Strip. According to local health authorities, over 58,000 people have been killed, including more than 17,000 children. Gaza now reportedly has the highest per capita number of amputee children in the world. As the starvation crisis deepens, civilians have reportedly been shot while waiting in queues for food and essential supplies.

In its submission to the ICJ, South Africa accused Israel of "weaponising international humanitarian law" to shield its actions from accountability. Since the outset of the genocide proceedings, Israel has maintained that its military campaign targets Hamas and not civilians, who it claims are affected only as collateral damage. Ms. Albanese has described this approach as "humanitarian camouflage," arguing that Israel has systematically distorted key humanitarian norms, such as those on human shields, collateral damage, safe zones, evacuations, and medical protection, to blur the distinction between civilians and combatants. This strategy, she argues, not only obscures the real human cost of the conflict but also undermines the core tenets of international humanitarian law.

Why is proving genocidal intent difficult?

Establishing genocidal intent is notoriously difficult, as states rarely articulate such intent overtly. Accordingly, the ICJ has held that intent may be inferred from circumstantial evidence, such as the scale and nature of atrocities, patterns of conduct, and dehumanising rhetoric by state officials. In its submission to the ICJ, South Africa cited several statements by senior Israeli leaders as indicative of genocidal intent. For instance, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that the enemy would "pay a huge price" and pledged to reduce parts of Gaza "to rubble." Other officials have referred to Palestinians as "human animals" and called for their "total annihilation."

However, the ICJ's evidentiary standard for proving genocidal intent remains stringent and has come under increasing criticism.

In *Croatia v. Serbia* (2015), the court held that such intent could only be inferred from a pattern of conduct if "this is the only inference that could be reasonably drawn" from the acts in question. This rigid standard effectively precludes a finding of genocide if any alternative motive appears plausible. In 2023, several states, including Canada, the Netherlands, the U.K., Germany, France, and Denmark, raised concerns over this high bar in a joint declaration filed in the genocide case instituted by Gambia against Myanmar. They cautioned that such a restrictive approach risks making genocide "near-impossible" to prove. Instead, they proposed a "balanced approach," urging courts to weigh all available evidence and discard inferences that are clearly unreasonable. In other words, the presence of other conceivable motives should not automatically negate a finding of genocidal intent.

This view is consistent with international criminal jurisprudence. Both the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) have recognised that genocidal intent can coexist with other motives. In *Prosecutor v. Goran Jelisić* (2001), the ICTY held that "the existence of a personal motive does not preclude the perpetrator from also having the specific intent to commit genocide."

However, even under the ICJ's exacting standard, several experts believe that Israel's conduct fulfils the criteria for genocide.

In November last year, Israeli genocide scholar Shmuel Lederman acknowledged that the operational patterns of the Israeli Defence Forces closely mirrored the incendiary rhetoric of senior officials. Similarly, Omer Bartov, a professor at Brown University and former Israeli soldier, recently wrote in *The New York Times* that both official rhetoric and developments on the ground had led him to the "inescapable conclusion" that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians.

What is the road ahead?

A final verdict by the ICJ on South Africa's genocide allegations against Israel is likely to take years, as it must follow extensive hearings on jurisdiction and the merits of the case. By the time a judgment is rendered, the devastation in Gaza may already be irreversible, particularly in light of Israel's continued non-compliance with the court's binding provisional measures. As a result, the proceedings are increasingly being seen as a litmus test for the credibility of the so-called "rules-based international order".

Within the UN framework, a strong case has emerged for suspending Israel from the UNGA, citing its persistent violations of the Charter and binding Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Article 6 of the Charter permits the expulsion of a member state by the Assembly on the UNSC's recommendation if it consistently breaches the Charter's core principles. In 2024, the UNGA adopted a resolution calling for economic sanctions on Israel, including an arms embargo.

Yet, major Western powers, including France, the U.K., Germany, and Canada, have confined their responses to muted diplomatic criticism, particularly following the collapse of the ceasefire in Gaza in March. The U.S., in particular, has continued to shield Israel from accountability by repeatedly vetoing most UNSC resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire. In the absence of decisive multilateral action, one can only hope that President Donald Trump may once again intervene and nudge Mr. Netanyahu to agree to a renewed ceasefire and bring an end to the ongoing bloodshed.

THE GIST

In January 2024, South Africa initiated proceedings against Israel at the ICJ, alleging that its military campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide, based on a plausible risk and supported by statements from Israeli leaders and patterns of destruction.

Establishing genocidal intent is difficult, as states rarely express it openly. The ICJ's stringent evidentiary standard has been criticised for making genocide "near-impossible" to prove, even when actions and rhetoric strongly suggest such intent.

While the ICJ has issued binding provisional measures, Israel's non-compliance and continued assault raise doubts about the credibility of the rules-based international order. Calls for UN sanctions grow, but powerful states like the U.S. continue to block decisive action.

EDUCATIONPLUS

Welcome them here

How Indian higher education institutions can attract foreign students

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

R.W. Alexander Jesudasan

For several decades, meritorious Indian students have migrated to pursue higher education overseas. The reverse – foreign students coming to India for education purposes – has largely been of short duration and to complete specific tasks.

In its 2022 notification, the University Grants Commission (UGC) encouraged the establishment of foreign universities in India and increased the number of seats in various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes by 25%. The latter aims to enhance enrollment of foreign students in institutes of higher education in India.

Further, the UGC has also asked institutions to adopt a smooth and simple admission process for international students based on the equivalence of entry qualifications. In this situation, it is worth considering what can help attract foreign students to Indian varsities.

Strategies

The first involves strengthening our traditional arts and cultural studies with appropriate internships. Indian institutions should capitalise on the country's history, culture and traditions by offering programmes and educational trips and exposure to the country's diversity.

Another is the provision to appoint chair or research professors or professors of practice, especially with regard to indigenous technologies. Foreign students can be offered internships in areas connected to local knowledge systems and the development of new products with the help of such specialists.

Thirdly, institutions need to upgrade the standard of hostels, as these vary depending on the institution. Attention must also be given to the creation of outdoor and indoor sports and recreation areas.

Fostering cultural exchange programmes is another way to attract foreign students to India. Apart from presenting various aspects of Indian regional cultures, institutions can also encourage foreign students to share details of the food, games, festivals from their own countries.

Finally, the most important part is scaling up the standard of higher education in our institutions, especially the course content and practical aspects of education. This will not only ensure that foreign students come to India but also encourage our students to stay back for higher education, research, and employment.

The writer is former Principal and Secretary, Madras Christian College, Chennai, and former Pro Vice-Chancellor, HITS, Chennai. Email alexjesu62@gmail.com

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Seek support

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I want to do M.Des. Transportation Design. Which colleges in India and abroad are good? Also will scholarships be available? Rohit

Dear Rohit,

Some top colleges in India are the Industrial Design Centre (IDC) and IIT-Bombay, Mumbai; National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad; MIT Institute of Design (MITID), Pune; World University of Design (WUD), Sonipat; Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS), Chennai; and Strate School of Design, Bengaluru. Abroad, colleges to consider include Royal College of Art (RCA), London, and Coventry University, the U.K.; Umeå Institute of Design (UID), Sweden; Istituto Europeo di Design (IED), Torino, and Scuola Politecnica di Design (SPD), Milan, Italy; ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena, and College for Creative Studies (CCS), Detroit, the U.S.; and Pforzheim University, Germany.

Scholarships depend on the college, academic merit, and portfolio. Look up the college websites and others such as Tata Trusts, Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation and others for details. Check specific admission criteria and websites for such opportunities.

I have a 9.2 CGPA in Electronics and Instrumentation but campus placements don't seem to be happening. How can I find a job? Or should I do a Master's? Ramesh

Dear Ramesh,

Don't get discouraged. Your academic record is strong and, with a focused, proactive job search strategy, you will find a suitable opportunity. Get on online job portals like LinkedIn, Indeed, and Freshersworld. Visit websites of companies that you are interested in and look for roles and recruitment notifications.

Network and build a professional connection with alumni, industry professionals, and recruiters to learn about leads. Attend industry events. Ensure that your resume emphasises relevant technical skills for the role/s that you apply for by highlighting your projects and internship experience.

Consider off-campus placements, job fairs and recruitment drives.

A Master's depends on your career goals and circumstances. An M.Tech. will help you specialise in a niche area within your domain and enhance your job prospects. Consider taking the GATE, as it will open doors to M.Tech. programmes in top institutes as well as recruitment in some PSUs.

I am a first-year Geography Honours student and want to take the UPSC exams. But between commuting to college and coursework, I am not able to prepare. Sometimes I feel I will not clear the UPSC, that I am just wasting my parents' money, and should just go back home. Please help. Nisha

Dear Nisha,

You seem overwhelmed between the demands of your coursework and your ambition. The first year is about adjusting to a new academic environment, exploring your subject, and building a strong foundational understanding and critical thinking skills. UPSC is a marathon, not a sprint. You need sustained and strategic preparation over time.

Be true and honest to yourself. How much time does commuting, coursework and other activities? What are your energy levels after college? Are you working on a structured plan or just feeling guilty about not studying enough? A sustainable strategy might help! Prioritise your degree and do well in it.

Slowly integrate the UPSC preparation by breaking it down into small, manageable steps into your existing routine. Read the newspaper for at least half an hour every day and focus on understanding current events and their socio-economic and political context. Try to read relevant NCERT textbooks for History, Geography, Polity, Economics. Even a few pages a day will help. Start thinking about potential optional subjects for the UPSC exam. Create a realistic schedule beyond your college commitments and identify small pockets of time for UPSC-related activities. Try to listen to podcasts or audiobooks related to current affairs or your subjects during your commute.

Get enough sleep, eating healthy, and take short breaks lest you burn out. Seek support when you feel overwhelmed. Discuss your concerns with faculty advisors who may be able to guide you. Finally, don't compare your progress with that of others. Everyone's journey is different.

I graduated in Agriculture (2024), but don't have the means to start a business. What opportunities do I have? Vijayalakshmi

Dear Vijayalakshmi,

Many state and central government departments of agriculture recruit graduates for Agricultural Officer or Extension Officer roles. Look for notifications for exams such as the Indian Forest Service or from the Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR) and its research institutes for scientists and research assistants. Opportunities are available in public and private sector banks and in organisations such as National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Food Corporation of India, and State Seed Corporations.

Update your resume and register on job portals like LinkedIn, Indeed, and specialised agricultural job sites. Connect with industry professionals on LinkedIn or talk to your professors about your job search. Consider an internship with a company or organisation in your field of interest to gain experience and build connections.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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M BG-BGE

CACHE

Denmark, Greece, Spain, France, and Italy are some of the first countries that will work alongside the Commission with the aim of launching their own national age verification apps. GETTY IMAGES

What is the European Commission's age check plan to keep children safe online?

European Commission is developing an age verification app under the Digital Services Act to prevent minors from accessing harmful online content while claiming to protect adult users' privacy; many critics argue that the move risks compromising privacy and fails to effectively safeguard children

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

The European Commission is working on an age verification app that is meant to stop children from accessing unsafe content online while protecting the privacy of adult internet users. Critics, however, claim this comes at the cost of user privacy.

What is the European Commission age verification debate?

The European Union has, in the recent past, enacted multiple pieces of legislation to regulate the operations of large online platforms such as e-commerce giants, social media companies, and even pornography-hosting websites. In particular, the European Commission has highlighted some risks that children face when they are online, including platform designs that encourage digital addiction, cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and unwanted contact from strangers.

Digital advocates have previously recommended that the user interface of a large digital platform could be adjusted on the basis of the user's age, with children receiving private accounts and having their safety or well-being features turned on by default. When it comes to platforms such as porn sites, children ideally should not be able to access or even accidentally see explicit content. One way this could be done is through an app that verifies the user's age online, in order to be certain that children are not using adults' accounts.

The European Commission on July 14 presented guidelines concerning the protection of minors on online platforms, along with a prototype of an age-verification app under the Digital Services Act (DSA). Development of the age verification blueprint began early this year and is built on the same technical specifications as the European Digital Identity Wallets (eID), which are slated to be rolled out before the end of 2026, according to the European Commission, with two services meant to be compatible.

Denmark, Greece, Spain, France, and Italy are some of the first countries that will work alongside the Commission with the aim of launching their own national age verification apps in the future, in their own languages.

"During the pilot phase, the age verification solution will be further enhanced with new features. Apart from eID, further updates will include additional options for users to prove they are over 18. The age verification will also be enhanced with the latest technical solutions (zero-knowledge proof) to ensure the highest level of privacy protection," said the European Commission in its post.

How will age verification affect the privacy of adults?

While those in favour of creating a safer internet for children are in support of making age verification mandatory to access porn websites, critics of the move believe that it violates privacy rights and can put their security online at risk or make their browsing activities easier to track and monetise.

However, the European Commission has defended the privacy standards of its prototype app and said that it will enable age verification while preventing privacy violations. The regulator added that the technical specifications and the open-source age verification blueprint were freely available to view and use as well.

"It will, for example, allow users to easily prove they are over 18 when accessing restricted adult content online, while remaining in full control of any other personal information, such as a user's exact age or identity. No one would be able to track, see, or reconstruct what content individual users are consulting," stated the Commission.

Meanwhile, at the topmost levels of the French government, President Emmanuel Macron also supports age verification and even wants to ban social media for users who are under 15 years of age.

France is one of the countries that will first try out the age verification app prototype.

There are also ongoing discussions as to whether certain social media platforms that contain adult content, such as X, can be classified as porn platforms. This also has implications for the user experience of adult social media users across the European Union.

Why are some porn companies against age verification?

While most companies agree that children using the internet should be protected from explicit content, cybersecurity threats, and social media addiction, they often disagree on the ideal way to go about this process.

For example, Pornhub-owner Aylo's main contention is whether age verification takes place at the website level or not. In a company post on June 26, Aylo stressed the need for "device-based age verification." According to the company, age verification should have been carried out by Apple, Google, and/or Microsoft long before an underage user even arrives at an adult website such as Pornhub.

For close to two weeks in June, internet users in France who tried to access pornography platforms such as Pornhub, YouPorn, and RedTube encountered a largely black screen with a notice, or a historic painting with a call to action against the French government's move to implement mandatory age verification for adult platforms.

Aylo also warned that users unable to access Pornhub would go to smaller, less regulated sites potentially hosting illegal content. It unblocked its websites in late June after a Paris administrative tribunal's decision over the rule's unconfirmed compatibility with EU laws. But Aylo's next actions remain to be seen as the top administrative court affirmed this month that age verification was a must.

"Data breaches happen daily. Forcing you to enter sensitive personal information repeatedly creates an unacceptable security risk we refuse to impose on our users. We refuse to compromise your privacy with measures that, ironically, fail to effectively protect children," said Aylo in a statement on its website on July 15.

"To make the internet safer for everyone, every phone, tablet or computer should start as a kid-safe device. Only verified adults should be allowed to unlock access to age-inappropriate content," said the company.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz to mark the 56th anniversary of humans landing on the moon

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Easy one to begin with. What was the mission called and what were the codenames for the Command Module and the Lunar Module?

QUESTION 2
From which place did the rocket blast off and what was the place on the moon where the lunar module landed?

QUESTION 3
What were the first words spoken from the surface of the moon after the landing?

QUESTION 4
Neil Armstrong carried something that had made history in 1903 during the voyage. What?

QUESTION 5
What connects James Lovell, William Anders and Fred Haise to the Apollo XI mission?

QUESTION 6
What specifically did Michael Collins omit from the insignia design for the mission, as the trio felt the design had to be representative of everyone who had worked toward a lunar landing?

QUESTION 7
What were the trio's version of 'life insurance' for their families in case they did not make it back to Earth?

Visual Question:
This is a moon rock brought back by the Apollo XI crew. What was it christened as? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Mandela belonged to which ethnic group in South Africa? **Ans: Xhosa**
2. What is the name of the political party that he served as the president of? **Ans: African National Congress**
3. What is the term used to define the separation of people into racial or other ethnic groups in daily life? **Ans: Racial segregation**
4. uMkhonto weSizwe was associated with Mandela. What was it? **Ans: It was the paramilitary wing of the African National Congress**
5. What was the name of the trial that took place in apartheid-era South Africa between 9 October 1963 and 12 June 1964, after a group of anti-apartheid activists were arrested on Liliesleaf Farm? **Ans: Rivonia Trial**
6. What is the term used to describe a situation where specific false memories can sometimes be shared by a large group of people? Hundreds of people recorded having vivid and detailed memories of news coverage of South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela dying in prison in the 1980s, despite Mandela actually dying in 2013. **Ans: Mandela Effect**
Visual: In this image, Mandela has raised his clenched fist. What is it called? **Ans: Amandla Salute**
Early Birds: Sunil Madhavan | Parimal Das | Pranab Biswas

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I am keeping my lips zipped about the bet

It was fairly obvious by then that Swiatek was going to blow away Anisimova

S. Upendran

"Did you find the time to watch the Wimbledon finals on TV?"

"I watched the men's match completely. But when it came to the ladies final, I watched only the first three games before switching off the TV."

"Only three games?"

"It was fairly obvious by then that Swiatek was going to blow away Anisimova."

"Blow away?"

"The expression 'blow away' has many different meanings. But in the context of sports, it is mostly used to mean to defeat someone comprehensively."

"In other words, you outperform everyone else."

"I guess you could say that. Here's an example. After the second round, Iga Swiatek just blew away her opponents."

"How about this example? During the first half of the game, the two teams were evenly matched. In the second half, however, our opponent blew us away by scoring seven goals."

"Ouch! Here's another one. We thought Sindhu would blow away the competition. We were shocked when she lost in the first round."

"That's what makes every tournament exciting. So, did Sujatha buy you breakfast? After all, you did take a bet with her that Swiatek would win."

"That's true. But Sujatha is going through a tough time. So, I'm keeping my lips zipped about the bet."

"Does it mean the same thing as 'keeping your lips buttoned'?"

"Very good. When you keep your lips zipped, what you are doing is keeping quiet. The Manager was angry and wasn't willing to listen to reason. So, I decided to keep my lips zipped."

"Keeping one's lips buttoned is the best thing to do when someone is angry."

"Exactly! So, how are things at your office? Heard you're getting a new boss."

"That's true. He'll be joining us in a week or two."

"That's a long time! What are you guys going to be doing?"

"What we've been doing the past few days, I suppose! Sleepwalk through the workday."

"Sleepwalk through the day? What are you talking about?"

"Do you know what sleepwalk means?"

"Doesn't it mean to walk in one's sleep?"

"I'm told I used to sleepwalk when I was a kid."

"I believe my uncle sleepwalks even now."

"Sleepwalk has other meanings as well. It's frequently used in informal contexts to mean to say something without really thinking."

"And you're not thinking because you're asleep! Since your mind is not functioning or has been switched off, you're not really worried about the consequences of what you do or say."

"Very good!"

"How about this example? Last night, I saw a movie where most of the actors sleepwalked through their roles."

"So, what you're suggesting is that the actors were wooden. There was little or no life in their acting."

"Yes."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Forswear:
agree to give up or do without

Synonyms: avoid, withdraw, deny

Usage: *He decided to forswear junk food to stay healthy*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/forswearpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fɔrswɛr/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

SCHOLARSHIPS

Free Coaching for DNT Students under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)
An initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
Eligibility: Students belonging to De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes willing to pursue coaching for competitive exams such as NEET, JEE Main, CLAT, NDA, TOEFL, SAT, CA-CPT, RRB, Banking, Insurance, State Police, and CPL and have passed Class 12 and have an annual family income must be less than or equal to ₹800,000. Applicants should not be availing of similar benefits from any other Government Scheme.
Reward: Up to ₹120,000 plus benefits
Application: Online
Deadline: August 3
www.b4s.in/edge/FCDNT2

Kotak Kanya Scholarship
An initiative of the Kotak Education Foundation
Eligibility: Girls who have scored 75% or more in Class 12 and are in the first year of UG programmes in NIRF/NAAC accredited institutions with an annual family income of less than ₹600,000
Rewards: ₹1,50,000 a year
Application: Online
Deadline: August 31
www.b4s.in/edge/KKGS4

Infosys Foundation STEM Stars Scholarship Programme
An initiative of Infosys Foundation.
Eligibility: Girls who have completed Class 12 and are enrolled in the first year of UG STEM courses at recognised institutions; second-year B.Arch students and those pursuing five-year Integrated or Dual Degree programmes; Annual family income must not exceed ₹800,000.
Rewards: Up to ₹100,000 a year
Application: Online
Deadline: September 15
www.b4s.in/edge/ISTS3

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE

TEDxABBS
Acharya Bangalore B-School (ABBS) will host TEDxABBS, a TED eve on July 26 to spark conversations around sustainability, environmental conservation, innovation, and green living. Speakers include green influencers Srishti Kukreja and Fehi Mohammed; Ram Prasat Manohar, Chairman of BWSSB; Babu Padmanaban from Steer World; Shammi Param from The Science Museum; environmentalist Dr. Yellappa Reddy; and Sumesh Nayak, an urban jungle conservationist. To register, visit https://tinyurl.com/msdsz57z

Admissions
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Chennai, has opened admissions for its MBA course with specialisations in Hospital Management, Aviation Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Business Analytics and so on.
Eligibility: Minimum 50% marks in any UG discipline and valid scores in CAT, MAT, XAT, or CMAT.
Deadline: July 30
https://apply.hindustanuniv.ac.in

Competition

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has launched a national case study competition. ACCA Case Masters 2025: Redefining the Accountant aims to provide students with a unique platform to demonstrate financial acumen, strategic thinking and problem-solving skills in real-world business scenarios.

The case studies will go beyond traditional accounting and delve into areas such as sustainability, ethics, innovation, and strategic decision-making.

Through this initiative, ACCA aims to bridge the gap between academia and business, offering students an opportunity to step beyond the classroom and into the world of professional accountancy.

Eligibility: B.Com and BBA students from across India
Deadline: August 8

The competition will be conducted in three stages, with the top 15 teams presenting their solutions to experts in the final round.
https://bit.ly/ACCACaseMasters

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Kerala CM pays a visit to Raj Bhavan, raises issues with Governor

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar welcoming Pinarayi Vijayan at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan called on Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Raj Bhavan here on Sunday.

The meeting, which lasted an hour, came at a time when the State's higher education sector has been witnessing deep administrative turbulence.

A range of pressing issues, primarily centred on the ongoing crisis involving various State universities, including Kerala University, which remains embroiled in a prolonged administrative stand-off, are learnt to have figured in the discussions.

Mr. Vijayan also reportedly handed over a panel of nominees for the appointment of interim Vice-Chancellor at the Digital University Kerala. He also urged the Governor to expedite the appointment of an interim Vice-Chancellor for APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University.

Pending Bills discussed

The meeting also saw discussions on several pending Bills, including the Private Universities Bill, which at present awaits the Governor's assent.

The meeting marks the first formal interaction between the Chief Minister and the Governor since the 'Bharat Mata' controversy flared up. The row had led to tensions at Kerala University and the suspension of Registrar K.S. Anil Kumar by Vice-Chancellor in-charge Mohanan Kunnummal. However, there is no official word yet on whether the issue was raised during the conversation.

Mr. Arlekar is understood to have assured the Chief Minister of his full cooperation in facilitating the government's administrative initiatives. Mr. Vijayan is also said to have extended an invitation to the Governor and his family to attend the official Onam celebrations to be hosted by the government.

Law and Industries Minister P. Rajeeve, who spoke to presspersons, said there was nothing unusual about the meeting, which is an essential component of the democratic governance system.

"Under such a framework, both the government and the Governor are entrusted with undertaking their assigned duties. Constant interactions are necessary to ensure smooth coordination," the Minister said.

Higher Education Minister R. Bindu recently indicated that the government had commenced efforts to restore normalcy in the functioning of universities by ironing out differences.

MP Midhun Reddy sent to judicial remand till August 1

The YSRCP leader was arrested in the ₹3,500-crore liquor scam case and will be moved to the Rajamahendravaram Central Prison; party president Jagan Mohan Reddy slams 'illegal arrest'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

P.V. Midhun Reddy comes out of Government General Hospital after a medical check-up before being produced in court on Sunday. G.N. RAO

The Anti-Corruption Bureau Special Court in Vijayawada on Sunday sent YSR Congress Party leader and Rajampet MP P.V. Midhun Reddy to judicial remand till August 1 in the alleged multi-crore liquor scam case.

Following the order, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) personnel began the process of shifting Mr. Midhun Reddy to the Rajamahendravaram Central Prison amid tight security.

Bail plea rejected

With the Andhra Pradesh High Court and later the Supreme Court rejecting Mr. Midhun Reddy's anticipatory bail plea in the case, the YSRCP leader, who was named accused no. 4, had visited the SIT office here on Saturday for questioning.

After about seven hours of questioning, the SIT had announced his arrest. On Sunday, after medical examination at the Government General Hospital in Vijayawada, Mr. Midhun Reddy was produced in the court.

The police have so far arrested 12 persons in the alleged ₹3,500-crore liquor scam, which was committed during 2019-2024.

YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has condemned the "illegal arrest" of his party leader and MP in the case.

In a post on X, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy termed it a "political conspiracy to silence leaders who stand with the people".

He said that Mr. Midhun Reddy, a three-time MP, was falsely implicated through coerced confessions, and accused the NDA government of resorting to vendetta to distract people from its failures and scams.

Calling the liquor scam a fabricated narrative designed for media theatrics, the former Chief Minister said the case was based on statements "extracted through pressure, threats, and inducements".

Case against Naidu

"Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is on bail in the case pertaining to the liquor policy framed during his term between 2014-19, and yet he seeks to attack the YSRCP's policy reforms," Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said.

The National Democratic Alliance government in the State had revived the corrupt liquor practices the YSRCP dispensation had dismantled, such as belt shops, illegal outlets, and prices higher than the MRP, he alleged.

Alleging corruption in liquor licence allotments and procurement processes, he criticised Mr. Naidu for "using State agencies and yellow media" to target Opposition party leaders, while stalling probes against himself.

"The TDP's goal is to use the SIT to jail YSRCP leaders indefinitely, even without trial. But once the trial begins, the truth will surface," he observed.

"This is not a legal process, but a political witchhunt," he added.

'My son will come clean and prove the rulers wrong'

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

YSRCP Rayalaseema regional coordinator and Punganur MLA Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy has accused the NDA government of harassing his son and Rajampet MP, P.V. Midhun Reddy, by arresting him in the liquor case.

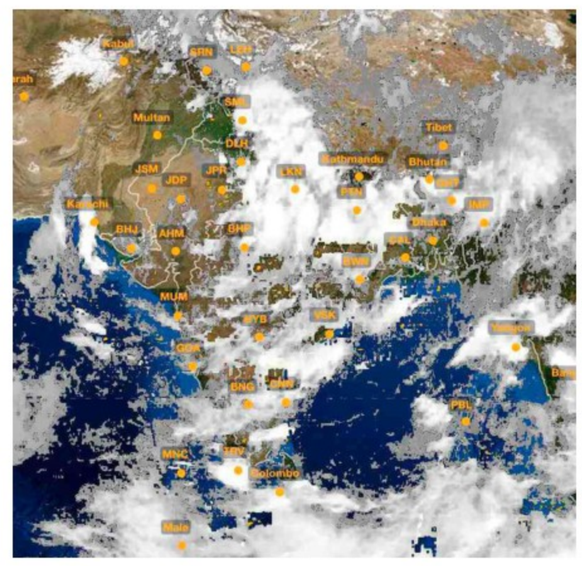
"My son will come clean from the case and prove the rulers wrong," Mr. Ramachandra Reddy said while addressing presspersons at his camp office here on Sunday.

He called the arrest a case of political vendetta, and accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, HRD Minister N. Lokesh and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan of hatching a conspiracy. "The liquor scam case, in which he has no role whatsoever, will fall flat," he said.

Expressing anguish at the continued attack on his party members, and more particularly on him and his family, Mr. Ramachandra Reddy said that the case against Mr. Midhun Reddy would leave an indelible scar on the image of Mr. Naidu.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Coastal Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Uttarakhand. Thundersquall with wind speed reaching 50-60kmph very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands and West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.0	34.4	28.2	Kozhikode	13.0	27.3	23.6
Ahmedabad	8.4	31.4	26.2	Kurnool	1.0	31.8	24.8
Aizawl	52.8	26.5	20.2	Lucknow	—	34.9	27.6
Allahabad	—	34.8	27.7	Madurai	0.5	36.0	27.1
Bengaluru	6.0	26.2	19.6	Mangaluru	46.9	26.5	22.6
Bhopal	—	32.0	23.4	Mumbai	1.2	31.9	27.0
Bhubaneswar	7.0	34.4	25.2	Mysuru	—	29.0	—
Chandigarh	—	35.4	28.3	New Delhi	—	34.5	26.2
Chennai	6.0	33.8	26.0	Patna	3.5	36.4	29.1
Coimbatore	0.7	28.8	22.0	Port Blair	47.0	30.0	24.1
Dehradun	0.5	33.4	24.8	Puducherry	0.3	34.3	27.7
Gangtok	41.0	23.5	17.5	Pune	0.6	31.7	23.3
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	27.0	33.1	23.7
Guwahati	0.3	29.0	27.2	Ranchi	0.2	30.7	24.0
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	47.0	25.6	19.0
Hyderabad	17.0	32.6	23.4	Shimla	5.0	21.3	18.7
Imphal	27.0	31.6	23.2	Srinagar	—	34.6	21.5
Jaipur	4.0	31.1	24.5	Thiruvananthapuram	5.0	28.2	23.1
Kochi	34.0	26.2	23.4	Tiruchi	—	34.7	26.6
Kohima	2.0	29.5	19.0	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	100.0	35.4	24.5	Visakhapatnam	—	34.7	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..99	50	 42	51	
Bengaluru	...6	...41	26	 56	87	
Chennai	...5	..25	.—	 32	90	
Delhi	.12	..34	34	 56	...129	
Hyderabad	.16	..13	38	... 157	...112	
Kolkata	.11	..83	26	 40	49	
Lucknow	.36	..12	10	... 121	85	
Mumbai	.93	..16	58	 24	45	
Pune	..—	..52	69	 37	74	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..53	15	 51	79	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Araria, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 368 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

NMW: A global effort to raise awareness about moths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Participants across the country can register their private or public mothing events on the official website nationalmothweek.org

The National Moth Week (NMW) is being celebrated in various parts of the country, including Bengaluru, from July 19 to 27. The NMW is a global endeavour to raise awareness about moths and their vital role in the ecosystem.

According to the organisers of the NMW, India has been a vibrant participant since 2013 and once again will join this global citizen science initiative, encouraging enthusiasts, families, and organisations to discover and document the incredible diversity of moths.

Participants across the country can register their private or public mothing events on the official website (nationalmothweek.org). Observations collected during these events contribute to global knowledge through the iNaturalist platform, helping to expand the understanding of moth biodiversity and geographical distribution.

Mothing session today

In Bengaluru, a public talk has already been held, and a moth-trapping session is scheduled at the Nature Conservation Foundation and a moth-watching session planned at ATREE on Monday.

"By simply observing and contributing through platforms like iNaturalist, we collectively enhance our understanding of moth biodiversity and their geographical distribution, which is crucial for conservation efforts. We encourage everyone to join or host an event and become a part of this global effort to celebrate these incredible creatures," said Vijay Barve, coordinator of DiversityIndia and a core team member of NMW.

'Crucial pollinators'

Pritha Dey, country coordinator for India and core member of the IndianMoths community, said the NMW is an incredible opportunity for people of all ages to connect with nature and contribute to scientific research.

"Moths are often misunderstood, but they are crucial pollinators and an important part of the food chain. By participating, you can help us learn more about these fascinating creatures right in your backyard," Ms. Dey said.

There are an estimated 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 moth species worldwide, showcasing a stunning array of colors, patterns, and sizes.

The organisers said that while most are nocturnal, some species are active during the day, much like butterflies.

Observing moths can be as simple as turning on a porch light after dark, or for dedicated enthusiasts, using special lights and baits.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY
Mahaveer Marg, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-028

NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSIONS INTO UG & PG PROGRAMS UNDER INTERNATIONAL QUOTA- 2025

Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture Fine Arts University, Hyderabad is inviting applications from the eligible candidates for admissions into the following UG & PG Programs offered in the Constituent Colleges, JNAFAU under International Quota for the Academic Year 2025-26.
The application form, eligibility, fee structure and other details are available in the University website **www.jnafau.ac.in.** Eligible candidates who wish to apply may submit filled in application form (IS20), photocopies of relevant documents/ certificates and Application fee & Processing Fee (refer to fee structure available in the website for fee to be paid and mode of payment) at the office of the Director, International Relations Cell, Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture And Fine Arts University Mahaveer Marg, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-028.
The last date for submission of filled in application form is 30-07-2025 for B. Arch. and 21-08-2025 for all other programs.
Note: For detailed information regarding programs, eligibility, important dates, fee structure, admissions procedure and latest updates visit website www.jnafau.ac.in Contact: 8074700647.

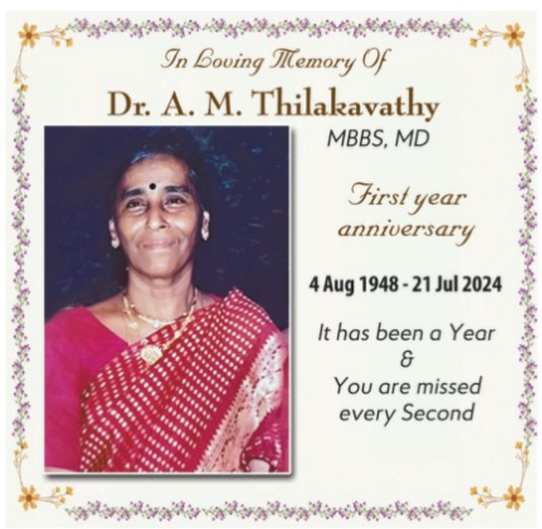
No: JNAFAU/IRC/UG&PG/1, dt: 18-07-2025. **Sd/- Director, IRC**

DIPR R.O.No. 393-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:20.07.2025

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Property from **Sri. Venkatesh Balasubramaniam**, Son of Sri. V Balasubramaniam, No. 208, Sandy Flama, Dosti Flamingos, T.J. Road, Sewri, Mumbai - 400 015, Maharashtra. who has represented that he purchased the Schedule Property in terms of an Absolute Sale Deed dated 14/08/2019, registered as Document No.4411/2019-20 in Book-I and stored in C.D.No. BMHD973, in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Bommanahalli (Jayanagar), Bangalore. Any person or persons objecting for the proposed purchase and persons having any right, title, interest or ownership or any other right or claim in the Schedule Property including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections if any, which are not received within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding. Any objections and/or claims and/or responses received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE:

Apartment bearing **No.D-3-4, Municipal No.68/2-79,** (Old No.D-3-4) PID No.64-138-68/2-79, situated on the **Third Floor,** of **Block "D"** in the Building Known as **"OAKYARD"**, measuring **1400 Sq. Ft.,** super built-up area & use of common area along with One Covered car parking bearing No. 108 in the basement, together with **560 Sq. Ft,** of UDS of land and Municipal Ward No. 170 (Old No.64), East End 'D' Main Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK,
Advocates,
No. 101, "EDEN PARK",
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Tel: 080-22217971.
Bangalore Date: 19/07/2025

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi, Pin Code.585 102.
Ph.:08472 256881, E-mail, gescomdsm@gmail.com

No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Proj)/EEE(DSM)/AEE(DSM)/AE/(DSM)/2025-26/28644-683 Date:19.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited, Kalaburagi invites tender for the work of "Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at Sub-Station (SS) level in GESCOM jurisdiction. The associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM scheme" including supply of all equipment's/ materials, erection, testing and commissioning under competitive bidding from eligible bidders through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on Percentage Basis.**

1. **GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(Proj)/EE DSM/ PM-KUSUM-C/SPG/504-537- First call.**
Kalaburgi Dist. 18 SS & 75.76MW, Koppal Dist. 03 SS & 13.91MW, Raichur 06 SS & 25.97MW, Ballari 04 SS & 17MW, Bidar 03 SS & 19MW-> **Total: 34 SS and 151.64 MW.**
2. GESCOM/CEE(O)/ SEE(Proj)/EE DSM/ PM-KUSUM-C/SPG/538-545- Second call.
Koppal 02 SS & 5.94MW, Ballari 06 SS & 28.46MW-> **Total: 8 SS and 34.43 MW.**

The bid documents will be available in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after 28.07.2025, the prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the DSM cell corporate office GESCOM Kalaburagi.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
(Operations), Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/307/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru-560001.

TRC No: 1090/2018

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Versus
Sri. Mahaganapathi Stone Crusher Proprietor **Sri. R.Mani**
...Certified Debtor/Defendants

DEMAND NOTICE

1 **Sri. Mahaganapathi Stone Crusher** Proprietor **Sri. R.Mani, S/o Sri. Rangaswamy,** No.185, Hungarahalli Village, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District. Also at: **Sri. Mahaganapathi Stone Crusher** Proprietor **Sri. R.Mani, S/o Rangaswamy,** R/o No.10, 5th Cross, IV Main, Shaktinagar, Mysore. ...**Certified Debtor/Defendants.**

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No.82/2013** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore** on dtd. 4/30/2014 an amount of **Rs.22,38,450/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days from the date of publishing, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the **Debts Recovery Officer,** nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **23rd day of November 2019.**

Sd/- Recovery Officer-2
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bangalore.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRISHNA Bahadur Khati, S/o Nanda Ram Khati residing at No.18, KSTC Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560084 have changed my name to Krishan Khati vide affidavit dated 19/07/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, kusumashree S A Alias S. A. Kusuma Shree D/O Amaranarayana Swamy S. R. Residing At Marati Street, Venugopala Swamy Temple Kataripalya, Kolar, Karnataka- 563101, Have Changed My Name To Nithu Shree S A For All Future Purposes

I, Aparna Kohli D/O Sushil Kumar Kohli & W/O Ankit Chandra Residing At 3184 Prestige Sunnyside Oak, Kadubeesinahalli, New Horizon College, Bhoganahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Po: Panathur, Dist: Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560103, Have Changed My Name To Aparana Kohli for All Future Purposes.

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Beyond the blitz

Pedagogical models need to be reoriented to prioritise collaboration, dialogue, and critical engagement over isolated content consumption.

Vishal R. Choradiya

As admissions unfold across universities and colleges in India, one cannot help but notice the aggressive advertising blitz of private institutions and coaching centres. From glowing endorsements of alumni who cracked top-tier competitive exams to slick presentations of rankings and accreditations, higher education is increasingly being packaged and promoted as a premium commodity.

Setting aside valid concerns raised by scholars about the opaque and often dubious nature of many ranking mechanisms, the deeper issue is what this kind of messaging reveals – and obscures – about our understanding of higher education. In its current form, it reflects a predominantly commodified imagination: education as a product, students as customers, and degrees as guarantees of personal return on investment. Lost in this model is the idea of education as a public good – one that nurtures not only individual potential but also collective responsibility, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

Narrow vision

At the heart of this commodification lies the increasing privatisation of Indian higher education. Severe and sustained underfunding of public universities has created a vacuum eagerly filled by private institutions and coaching industries. These cater largely to the upper and upper-middle classes, reinforcing a narrow and exclusionary vision of higher education – accessible primarily to those who can afford it, and tailored towards individual success rather than societal contribution.

Such privatisation has also shaped how we now conceive the delivery of education. The rise of online degrees, micro-credentials, AI-based tutoring, and other forms of "flexible learning" is often celebrated as innovation. However, these tools are frequently deployed within a hyper-individualised framework, where learning is imagined as a solitary activity – on screens, in apps, through automated feedback loops. But education is not a transactional download of information; it is a social, dialogic, and developmental process. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed, with brutal clarity, the hollowness of isolated learning – widespread reports documented sharp declines in engagement, comprehension, and well-being among students across levels.

What is increasingly overlooked is the unique value of physical universities: spaces that, at their best, foster diverse interactions, cultivate critical inquiry, and nurture habits of collective deliberation. When we reduce education to a mere skill-building exercise for the job market, we strip it of its deeper purpose: to cultivate thinking citizens, empathetic leaders, and socially conscious individuals.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Certainly, one cannot ignore the genuine concerns driving many families and students to embrace a utilitarian view of education. In a country grappling with chronic unemployment and economic insecurity, the pressure to secure a stable, well-paying job is immense. But what is more troubling is how this instrumental vision is being institutionalised and encouraged by universities themselves. Many are increasingly aligning their curricula, research, and training programmes with the immediate demands of the private sector and prioritising short-term industry needs over long-term social relevance.

This trend is reflected in the rhetoric around "skills-based education", now a buzzword in policy and institutional circles. While skilling is important, equating it with education risks reducing universities to glorified placement agencies.

The ultimate marker of success, as often celebrated in university brochures, is the student's placement in a multinational company with a lucrative salary package.

What is absent is any discussion on whether this trajectory contributes to the larger public good or whether it merely serves the interests of a few.

Ironically, while private industry increasingly shapes the objectives of higher education, its financial contribution remains negligible. It is the public that largely funds the production of human capital, only for the benefits to accrue privately. This arrangement is neither fair nor sustainable. It reinforces inequality, exploits public investment, and erodes the possibility of imagining education as a shared societal endeavour.

Shift in orientation

What is urgently needed, then, is a collective effort to reclaim the social dimensions of higher education – how it is funded, how it is delivered, and to what ends it aspires. This begins with a renewed commitment to robust public investment in universities, not just in infrastructure but also in faculty, research, and student support systems.

It also demands a reorientation of our pedagogical models to prioritise collaboration, dialogue, and critical engagement over isolated content consumption. Most importantly, it calls for a cultural shift: a revaluation of education as a means to build an enlightened, egalitarian, and mutually sustaining society. This vision must resist the seduction of glitzy advertisements and hollow rankings, and instead affirm the transformative power of education to shape not only careers but also communities.

At a time when education is being sold on bus banners and TV slots, we must ask: are we investing in a future built on shared values and knowledge or merely purchasing tickets to personal advancement?

The writer is an assistant professor with the Department of Professional Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru.

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A long list

The designation of TRF as a terror group should put more pressure on Pakistan

The decision of the U.S. to designate The Resistance Front (TRF) group that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist is a development that should undergird the global fight against terror. The Ministry of External Affairs has called it "a timely and important step". For one, the U.S. State Department has acknowledged the severity of the Pahalgam attack. It also names the TRF as a "front and proxy" for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which Pakistan claims it has rendered "defunct". Even though the U.S. added groups such as the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammad to its FTO list in 2001, they have masterminded attacks in India since then. The U.S. has also partially made amends for the TRF's name having been kept out of the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution condemning the Pahalgam attack, apparently at Pakistan's behest, but with the concurrence of the U.S. and other P-5 members. It is hoped that the designation will now help India's case in designating the TRF at the UNSC, under the 1267 Committee for sanctions, also strengthening the trans-national legal pursuit of those behind the attack.

While this is a positive step, it is necessary to put the Trump's administration's other actions since the Pahalgam attack into perspective. After India launched Operation Sindoor, the U.S. has countered India's narrative on the four-day conflict on several occasions. Mr. Trump, as well as Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have repeatedly made the claim that the U.S. negotiated the India-Pakistan ceasefire, and averted a nuclear conflict by using trade ties as leverage – an equivalence which Pakistan has been happy to endorse. Mr. Trump's unprecedented White House lunch and praise for the Pakistan military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, came hours after the government had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had cleared the picture with Mr. Trump, and brings into question just how much pressure the U.S. is willing to put on Pakistan to act against terrorism. The Trump administration had held out the promise of doing more to support India in its fight against terrorism by fast-tracking the extradition, in April, of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was wanted by India for the 2008 Mumbai attacks. It is hoped that the TRF's listing means that the U.S. is recommitting to that objective. Given that the real challenge lies more in credibly ending Pakistan's support to these groups, New Delhi must focus on its efforts, diplomatic as well as legal, to ensure justice for the victims and to prevent further terrorist acts.

Republican rumblings

Donald Trump is facing pressure from within his own support base

President Donald Trump, under pressure from a segment of his support base, has instructed his Attorney General, Pam Bondi, to request a court to unseal grand jury transcripts related to sex offender and former friend of the President, Jeffrey Epstein. While Mr. Trump had vowed, even during his presidential campaign, to unveil the files, in recent days he has faced mounting pressure to supply all relevant and new information pertaining to the case. The latest turn in the murky saga relating to Mr. Trump's prior association with Epstein, the former financier who died by suicide in a New York prison cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges, came after a report claimed that Mr. Trump, in 2003, sent a "bawdy" birthday letter to Epstein with references to a shared "secret". Mr. Trump has filed a libel lawsuit against the newspaper and its publisher Rupert Murdoch. He went on to post, on the Truth Social platform, "Based on the ridiculous amount of publicity given to Jeffrey Epstein, I have asked Attorney General Pam Bondi to produce any and all pertinent Grand Jury testimony, subject to Court approval. This SCAM, perpetuated by the Democrats, should end, right now!".

Mr. Trump's publicity woes regarding Epstein have been compounded, however, not due to any action by Democrats, but the fact that far-right MAGA groups, including conspiracy theorists such as QAnon, who believe that the U.S. government, media, and financial worlds are controlled by elites associated with a global child sex trafficking operation, have been applying pressure on the administration within Republican circles. Even prior to the latest report linking Mr. Trump and Epstein, the President had said that some "stupid Republicans... have fallen into the net" in asking for more information to be released. Now, it is possible that lawmakers in the House of Representatives will have the opportunity to vote on the decision to release the documents relating to the prosecution of Epstein, relying on a legislative mechanism known as a "discharge petition". A bipartisan team, led by Republican Thomas Massie and Democrat Ro Khanna, has proposed this petition under the moniker of the "Epstein Files Transparency Act", which, if it is passed with 218 signatures, could require the Attorney General to "make publicly available ... all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice..." relating to Epstein. Mr. Trump may soon discover that while it helps his policy agenda to have a federal government trifecta and a sympathetic Supreme Court, his political prospects ultimately rest upon his support base, and it is one that is capable of abruptly turning the tide against him.

Reform cannot wait, aviation safety is at stake

Yeshwanth Shenoy

is the President, Kerala High Court Advocates Association, and has been fighting for aviation safety for over a decade

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's preliminary report on the Air India Boeing 787 air crash in Ahmedabad, on June 12, 2025, was released last week, on July 12. The report remains inconclusive, with critical uncertainties on whether pilot action was inadvertent or deliberate. I would argue that the lack of faith among pilots and those who track aviation like myself about the robustness of the investigation and its findings, – whether correct or not – emanate from a deep lack of trust in the entire aviation system in India that often penalises its personnel, excessively, rather than holding airlines and regulators to equal scrutiny.

I would like to use this opportunity to, once again, call for a complete reform in the aviation sector. A genuine 'culture of safety' must permeate every layer of the aviation system. This includes fair employment terms and, crucially, access to mental health care without punitive consequences resulting in the automatic grounding of and loss of income for air crew at a time when the current system, ironically, jeopardises their psychological well-being.

The complex web of aviation safety is highly technical, but years of study with aviation professionals have helped me understand its intricate technicalities. The aviation system broadly involves multiple elements: the aircraft itself (design, airworthiness, and maintenance) and the people who operate it (maintenance engineers, technicians, pilots and cabin crew). These are, broadly, the responsibility of the airline operator, while airport infrastructure, air traffic control systems and its personnel are the responsibility of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and/or the aerodrome operator. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has regulatory control over airlines, the AAI and the airport operators. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has supervisory control over the DGCA and the AAI. Aviation accidents never result from a single failure but stem from multiple failures that align together, as in the Swiss cheese model. Each safety layer has flaws (holes); when these holes align across layers, an accident occurs.

The fight for safety through courts

I have filed over 15 Public Interest Litigations (PIL) in the various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India after studying the links between aviation technicalities, regulations and data. I approached the judiciary because aviation authorities in charge of safety, became the violators. No one is held accountable for air crashes or the lives lost, in turn emboldening violations despite knowing that existing/known safety breaches can cause deaths.

Court interventions have saved lives, as seen in the case of the crash in 2018 at Ghatkopar, Mumbai, when a small plane fell into a building site. In 2016, the Bombay High Court had issued a stay that halted construction near Mumbai airport. Had it not been issued, a 13-storey building would have stood in its place at the site..

Mumbai's airspace is among the most hazardous globally – there are over 5,000 vertical obstructions within a four-kilometre radius and in violation of the Inner Horizontal Surface (IHS) criteria. Despite a pending PIL, obstacles in the no-obstacle approach and take-off funnel rose from 125 in 2010 to over 1,000 in 2025, highlighting regulatory opacity and potential misrepresentation by the DGCA, the AAI, airport operators, and the MoCA before the Bombay High Court. Had the High Court been informed about this accurately, the spread of these obstacles could have been stopped.

The air crash in Ahmedabad is a moment for action — a genuine 'culture of safety' must flow to every layer of India's aviation system

Regulatory loopholes that pose a threat

Until 2008, airspace around airports was strictly regulated. The Aircraft Act and Statutory Order 988 of 1988 enabled the strict control of construction of buildings around airports. In 2008, a non-statutory committee was formed, effectively bypassing the legal safeguards that once ensured obstacle-free zones. It approved 25 buildings in prime locations in Mumbai using an aeronautical study conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which ought not to have been a part of a move to recommend construction which was illegal and of extra height. By the time ICAO distanced itself from the misuse of aeronautical studies, the AAI had begun conducting its own assessments which were less stringent.

The appellate committee granted permission for extra height recklessly. Around the year 2015, these obstacles, in addition to being physical barriers to safe flight movements, began interfering with radar and communication signals. The appellate committee also came out with guidelines and capped the maximum height at 90 metres in the Inner Horizontal Surface (IHS) and recorded that "any further deterioration in obstacle profile in and around airport is likely to aggravate the situation". Despite this, the appellate committee allowed obstacles to come up with impunity jeopardising safe flight operations. Ironically, the appellate committee that had permitted the safety violations was given statutory recognition through the 2015 Rules – despite these rules not allowing height relaxation.

The panel comprised officials entrusted with aviation safety and included a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, a Joint Director General in the DGCA, and a Member (Air Navigation Services) in the AAI. Thus, any complaint about obstacles is essentially judged by the very entities that sanctioned them.

Under pressure after a PIL on obstacles, the MoCA amended the 2015 Rules to limit the no objection certificate (NOC) validity to 12 years – an admission of the issue but an evasion of responsibility. How does the MoCA justify approving 100-floor buildings when it knows that 45 floors would become illegal in 12 years? This raises critical questions. What are the mechanisms that exist to demolish floors that become illegal after the expiry of the NOC?

What began in Mumbai has now spread across India. Even greenfield airport projects such as Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) have obstacles sprouting around them. Navi Mumbai Airport will start operations with a "displaced threshold" – which means aircraft will be unable to use the full runway because of the obstacles and increasing risks to air safety, thereby turning the airport into a monument of corruption and indifference by aviation authorities.

There is widespread systemic breakdown. First, aircraft design and airworthiness. The DGCA's limited internal technical capability forces it to be over reliant on foreign regulators such as the Federal Aviation Administration (U.S.) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), as seen during the engine failure issue (Pratt &Whitney) that IndiGo experienced in 2017-18.

Second, aircraft maintenance standards. Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs) work under severe stress without duty time limits. The DGCA has allowed airlines to delegate AME tasks to less-qualified, lower-paid "technicians" – a cost-cutting move that undermines safety. Duty-time limitations recommended for AMEs by the court of inquiry following the crash in Mangaluru (May 2010) remain unimplemented.

Third, the flight crew. Airlines violate Flight Time Duty Limitations for pilots, and the DGCA grants exemptions which allow pilots who are fatigued to operate. The DGCA's unique NOC requirement restricts pilot mobility across airlines, increasing stress and enabling airlines to coerce pilots into breaching regulations. Cabin crew, whose primary role is passenger safety, are often dismissed as mere hospitality workers, which is a dangerously reductive view.

Fourth, airline operations. Airlines prioritise the goal of profit, adopting policies that consistently undermine safety. Despite the DGCA suspending personnel for safety violations, airline officials often retain high positions, controlling operations. DGCA-appointed officers in airlines, who are expected to enforce compliance, often have no real authority, making accountability toothless.

Fifth, air traffic management. The AAI faces a severe shortage of Air Traffic Controller Officers (ATCO) – an issue that has been flagged even by parliamentary committees. The provision to give licences to ATCO has not yet been implemented. Duty-time limitations for ATCOs – recommended by the Mangalore Court of Inquiry – remain unimplemented.

Sixth, silencing whistle-blowers. Whistle-blowers are often demoted, transferred, or terminated – a trend that has discouraged the reporting of critical safety issues in the AAI and airlines.

When aerodromes operate in violation of safety standards, any other shortcomings in any of the other components become potentially fatal - as seen in Ghatkopar (2018), Kozhikode (2020), and now Ahmedabad (2025). Non-compliance in aviation stems from a lack of safety culture, not ignorance. Crashes are not mere "accidents" – they are the inevitable result of years of systemic neglect and policy violations. Without immediate systemic improvements, the next disaster will not wait for five years, but is just around the corner.

The role of the judiciary is important

The judiciary, which has always been the silver lining in India's constitutional set-up, has been inactive on aviation issues, relying on the state's technical expertise on the subject. It must address the deterioration in the aviation sector and hold authorities accountable. Additionally, the judiciary's conservative approach to valuing human life needs to change.

In India, human life is undervalued, for example, as seen in railway accidents and motor vehicle deaths – a few lakhs of rupees. When this is the worth of a human life, safety upgrades that cost crores of rupees become easier for stakeholders to ignore. Immediate and comprehensive reform is needed. The aviation system requires accountability, oversight and a safety-over-profit commitment.

Reform cannot wait. Lives are at stake.

India can reframe the Artificial Intelligence debate

Syed Akbaruddin

is a former Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and, currently, Dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad

Less than three years ago, ChatGPT dragged artificial intelligence (AI) out of research laboratories and into living rooms, classrooms and parliaments. Leaders sensed the shock waves instantly. Despite an already crowded summit calendar, three global gatherings on AI followed in quick succession. When New Delhi hosts the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, it can do more than break attendance records. It can show that governments, not just corporations, can steer AI for the public good.

India can bridge the divide

But the geopolitical climate is far from smooth. War continues in Ukraine. West Asia teeters between flareups. Trade walls are rising faster than regulators can respond. Even the Paris AI Summit (February 2025), meant to unify, ended in division. The United States and the United Kingdom rejected the final text. China welcomed it. The very forum meant to protect humanity's digital future faces the risk of splintering. India has the standing and the credibility to bridge these divides.

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology began preparations in earnest. In June, it launched a nationwide consultation through the MyGov platform. Students, researchers, startups, and civil society groups submitted ideas.

The brief was simple: show how AI can advance inclusive growth, improve development, and protect the planet. These ideas will shape the agenda and the final declaration. This turned the consultation into capital and gave India a democratic edge no previous host has enjoyed. Here are five suggestions rooted in India's digital experience. They are modest in cost but can be rich in credibility.

As the host of the AI Impact Summit next year, India can set the course — steering AI for the public good

Pledges and report cards

First, measure what matters. India's digital tools prove that technology can serve everyone. Aadhaar provides secure identity to more than a billion people. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) moves money in seconds. The Summit in 2026 can borrow that spirit. Each delegation could announce one clear goal to achieve within 12 months. A company might cut its data centre electricity use. A university could offer a free AI course for rural girls. A government might translate essential health advice into local languages using AI. All pledges could be listed on a public website and tracked through a scoreboard a year later. Report cards are more interesting than press releases.

Second, bring the global South to the front row. Half of humanity was missing from the leaders' photo session at the first summit. That must not happen again. As a leader of the Global South, India must endeavour to have as wide a participation as possible.

India should also push for an AI for Billions Fund, seeded by development banks and Gulf investors, which could pay for cloud credits, fellowships and local language datasets. India could launch a multilingual model challenge for say 50 underserved languages and award prizes before the closing dinner. The message is simple: talent is everywhere, and not just in California or Beijing.

Third, create a common safety check. Since the Bletchley Summit in 2023 (or the AI Safety Summit 2023), experts have urged red teaming and stress tests. Many national AI safety institutes have sprung up. But no shared checklist exists. India could endeavour to broker them into a Global AI Safety Collaborative which can share red team scripts, incident logs and stress tests on any model above an agreed compute line. Our own institute can post an open evaluation kit with code and datasets for bias robustness.

Fourth, offer a usable middle road on rules. The United States fears heavy regulation. Europe rolls out its AI Act. China trusts state control. Most nations want something in between. India can voice that balance. It can draft a voluntary frontier AI code of conduct. Base it on the Seoul pledge but add teeth. Publish external red team results within 90 days. Disclose compute once it crosses a line. Provide an accident hotline. Voluntary yet specific.

Fifth, avoid fragmentation. Splintered summits serve no one. The U.S. and China eye each other across the frontier AI race. New Delhi cannot erase that tension but can blunt it. The summit agenda must be broad, inclusive, and focused on global good.

The path for India

India cannot craft a global AI authority in one week and should not try. It can stitch together what exists and make a serious push to share AI capacity with the global majority. If India can turn participation into progress, it will not just be hosting a summit. It will reframe its identity on a cutting edge issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's claim

The U.S. President, Donald Trump, seems to have dropped another claim — that five jets were downed during the India-Pakistan conflict (Front page, "Cong. seeks clarity over Trump's remarks on jets", July 20). India cannot afford to remain silent whenever Mr. Trump makes a serious remark, especially when it one that has direct implications for the country's image, identity, security and reputation. Nothing will be lost if an authentic statement on the issue is tabled in the monsoon session of Parliament.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Ensure road safety

Omni bus drivers, especially on the Madurai to Chennai route, drive in a reckless manner. The vehicles also have very powerful head lights, causing difficulty to other road users. The police and RTO officers must act.

S. Prakash,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

The colour labels in the chart, "Dividend surge", that accompanied the front page report, "PSU dividends to Centre almost double since 2020" (July 20, 2025) were reversed.

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Temples of social justice

Recently, a political controversy erupted in Tamil Nadu on the issue of diverting temple funds for building colleges. Beyond the political debates, the issue throws light on a unique social justice model around the regulation of secular practices associated with religion. This model, predominantly developed in the erstwhile Madras Presidency, draws strength from a 200-year-old legislative framework which continues till date. It has gained more acceptance in south India. As elections approach in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, clarity on the issue will help diffuse attempts to polarise voters around it.

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram
Advocate practising before the High Court of Madras and DMK spokesperson

Swetha Sethubaskaran
Advocate practising before the High Court of Madras

Religious endowments law

Through the Religious Endowment and Escheats Regulation 1817, the East India Company set up the earliest legislative architecture around regulation of religious endowments. When the British Crown assumed direct control over Indian territories in 1858, Queen Victoria issued a proclamation stating that the sovereign would restrict interference in religious affairs. This was necessary as there was concern about losing face from the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, which was triggered by religious issues.

However, the withdrawal of the British government from religious affairs was not complete. In fact, in the Madras Presidency, various British officials argued for continued oversight of religious endowments. Finally, the British government settled for a balanced approach: the sovereign would not interfere with practices that were essentially religious, such as rituals, but would exercise control over the lands and secular aspects of the religious endowments.

The idea of the government supervising religious institutions came to be crystallised when the Justice Party was elected in 1920. One of the earliest legislative interventions by the Justicites was Bill No. 12 of 1922: Hindu Religious Endowments Act. When it was introduced in the Madras Legislative Council, it faced opposition, mainly due to the provision in the law that allowed surplus temple funds to be diverted for other purposes.

The nub of the issue was whether funds provided to a temple could be used for secular purposes. The matter was debated and settled in 1925, when the law was enacted. Since then, every revised version of the plenary law, including the current law – The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 – has retained the provision of surplus funds.

Section 36 of the 1959 Act permits the trustees of religious institutions to appropriate any surplus funds for any purposes listed under the law, with the prior sanction of the Commissioner. 'Surplus' means any amount remaining after adequate provisions have been made for the maintenance of the temple and training of its officials. The Act also empowers the Joint Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner to appropriate funds in cases where the original purpose has become impossible to fulfil.

Endowments to temples have a long and rich history. Temples received lavish donations from the sovereign rulers from as far back as in 970 AD, when the Chola empire was at its peak. Historian Anirudh Kanisetti writes that Sembiyan Mahadevi, a Chola queen, made strategic donations of land and kind to temples. The practice continued during the Vijayanagara kingdom. Temples were not just places of worship; they were socio-cultural hubs and were also used for educational purposes. This is confirmed by the inscriptions on temple walls and the spacious *mandapams* (pillared halls) which were used to hold educational or cultural events. So the original intent argument would also support the theory of utilising temple resources for educational purposes.

The 1959 Act has been tested and upheld by constitutional courts. Among the permissible uses of surplus funds under the 1959 Act is the establishment and maintenance of universities or colleges (Section 66). These educational institutions are also required to make available the study of the Hindu religion or Hindu temple architecture. Seen within this framework, building colleges from temple funds is not only legal, but a logical extension of these provisions.

Social justice legacy

The controversy around the use of temple funds cannot be restricted to discussing legal propositions, however; it also carries ideological and sociopolitical significance. In the pre-colonial era, the motivation for the rulers to support large-scale endowments was that the temples acted as channels through which state resources could be allotted for important welfare projects. Through colonial rule, the British East India Company and the Crown viewed sovereign involvement in the management of temple affairs as necessary for reasons of revenue and maintenance of local control.

Over the last century, the Self-Respect Movement, which emerged from the Madras Presidency, viewed the regulation of temples and oversight of their resources as a critical feature of anti-caste reforms. Without this, there would have been no temple entry legislation in 1936 and 1947. Today, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are among the few States where governments have appointed priests from backward classes after a prolonged legal struggle.

Ultimately, any argument against government control of temple affairs would be striking at the root of social justice. The role of the government in ensuring that surplus funds are appropriated in a lawful manner is settled. Any reversal of this would only result in a set back of the long legacy of social justice and religious reforms that south India has pioneered.

Any argument against government control of temple affairs would be striking at the root of social justice

Caught in the crossfire

Universities in Kerala cannot be made pawns in an ideological war

STATE OF PLAY

Sarath Babu George
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Over more than half a decade, the relationship between the Kerala government and the Raj Bhavan has deteriorated. Where there was ceremonial civility and mutual respect earlier, there is now friction, partisanship, and constitutional brinkmanship. And caught in this crossfire are Kerala's public universities.

Successive Governors – Arif Mohammed Khan followed by Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar – have clashed repeatedly with the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, especially over matters pertaining to higher education. Increasingly, these disputes are no longer symbolic or rhetorical; they are affecting the functioning of academic institutions.

This dysfunction is most apparent in the ongoing deadlock over the appointment of Vice-Chancellors. Thirteen of the 14 State universities, where the Governor serves as Chancellor, have been without permanent Vice-Chancellors for months or even years. The logjam arises from disagreements between the government and the Governor's office over the constitution of search-cum-selection committees, effectively stalling leadership appointments in institutions.

The current flashpoint of this crisis is the University of Kerala. On June 25, a private event at the university's Senate Hall was abruptly cancelled on the grounds that it featured a controversial depiction of 'Bharat Mata' holding a saffron flag. Citing violations of university norms, Registrar

K.S. Anil Kumar issued orders to cancel the event, reportedly at the advice of the Syndicate, which is dominated by Left-leaning members. The Governor was informed of the cancellation, but chose to go to the Senate Hall nevertheless. The programme proceeded amid student protests and political tensions.

A week later, the Vice-Chancellor in-charge, Mohanan Kunnummal, suspended the Registrar. In retaliation, the Syndicate convened a meeting, and despite the Vice-Chancellor formally adjourning and exiting the meeting, proceeded to revoke the suspension, citing procedural overreach. The scenario has given way to an unprecedented situation where both the suspended Registrar and his temporary replacement claim to hold the same office.

As the stand-off persisted, students bore the brunt. Protests escalated and essential administrative processes, including the issuance of degree certificates, came to a halt. Dr. Kunnummal returned to the university only on July 18 and cleared the backlog, reportedly under the Governor's advice. Even then, Higher Education Minister R. Bindu's attempt to broker a truce has yielded little substantive change. The Vice-Chancellor remains adamant on the legitimacy of the suspension, while the Syndicate insists on its revocation.

The Governor and the government also continue to spar over the appointments of interim Vice-Chancellors, with each attempting to assert their ideological and administrative primacy in the higher education sector. While the Left claims that campuses are being influenced by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Governor's office claims that there is excessive political interference by the State. Mr. Arlekar's ideological proximity to the RSS and his public admiration for Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar have only heightened tensions. With little sign of a thaw, the confrontation threatens to erode public faith in governance as well as in higher education.

The longer this constitutional tug-of-war continues, the greater the risk of irreparable harm to not just the reputations of these institutions, but also to the lives of thousands of students whose academic and professional futures are in limbo. The University of Kerala, the Cochin University of Science and Technology, and the Mahatma Gandhi University ranked between 9th and 11th places among State public universities in the NIRF India Rankings 2024. Their progress risks being undone by continued administrative paralysis and the increasing politicisation of academic governance.

Kerala's universities deserve better. They cannot be made pawns in an ideological war; they need autonomy, leadership, and stability. If the State's constitutional actors cannot rise above their entrenched positions, the students, and the credibility of Kerala's academic institutions, will ultimately have to pay the price.

Will the BJP-TDP alliance signal a new political fault line?

Telangana is entering a competitive three-cornered phase, but one with asymmetrical stakes

DATA POINT

Pradeep Kumar Dontha
Vignesh Karthik KR

The speculation over whether the BJP will support a TDP candidate in the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-poll signals a broader realignment in Telangana's political landscape.

The 2023 Assembly elections marked a rupture in Telangana's political trajectory. The decade-long dominance of the BRS, formerly the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, came to an end as the Congress returned to power under Revanth Reddy. While the spotlight has been on the Congress's resurgence, it is the unfolding reentry of the TDP and the consolidation of the BJP-TDP-JSP alliance that holds deeper implications for the political landscape. To assess what this reshuffling portends, it is essential to revisit the historical trajectories of vote share transfers, social base shifts, and evolving patterns of caste and party alignment.

The TDP's renewed interest in Telangana is a strategic return rooted in its historical strength. From 1985 to 1999, it consistently won over 45% of seats in the region, drawing support from Backward Classes (BCs) such as the Yadavs, Gouds, Mudirajs, Munnuru Kapus, and settler Kammas in southern Telangana. Post-2001, due to its ambiguous stance on Statehood, its vote share dropped from 38.46% in 1999 to 15.32% in 2014, and to 0% in 2023 when it did not contest.

Correlation analysis of historical vote shares reveals a strong negative correlation (-0.89) between the TDP and the BRS, suggesting that the BRS's rise was built substantially on the crumbling edifice of the TDP's support base. This trend was visible across key districts **(Table)**. In Karimnagar, the TDP's vote share plummeted from 46.5% (1999) to 0% (2023), while the BRS's vote share rose from 0% to 37.9% over the same period. In Medak, the TDP's fall from 47.5% to 0% coincided with the BRS's rise to 45.3%. In each case, the migration of BC votes and settler votes from the TDP to the BRS was crucial for the latter's dominance.

However, the electoral tide began to turn after 2018. The BRS, having reached its peak in that election with a vote share of 47.32%, began to lose ground due to governance fatigue, internal fragmentation, and its failed attempt at national expansion. As dissatisfaction grew, especially among aspirational BCs and Dalits, a second wave of vote transfer began, this time from the BRS to the BJP. The BJP's Statewide vote share increased from 7.10% in 2018 to 13.9% in 2023, marking its best performance in Assembly elections in the State. Its growth was especially sharp in northern Telangana: in Adilabad, the BJP grew from 7.85% to 27.6%; and in Nizamabad, from 6.88% to 26.2%. Some Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups in northern Telangana, such as the Gonds, have also extended support to the BJP.

What makes this moment particularly significant is the overlapping social base of the three parties. Each has historically drawn from the same pool of Backward Classes, settler Kammas, and sections of Dalits, especially the Madigas. The BRS's dominance between 2014 and 2018 rested on its ability to combine Velama leadership with broad BC support. But with the NDA now consolidating this fragmented social base, the TDP is reactivating its settler and BC networks in urban centres and the BJP is consolidating Madiga and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) support in the north. The expectation from the JSP is to mobilise Munnur Kapus. The BRS finds itself in danger of being squeezed out from both ends.

While this churn weakens the BRS, it paradoxically strengthens the Congress in the short term. In 2023, Congress won because it successfully positioned itself as the alternative amid a fractured opposition. Its vote share rose from 28.65% in 2018 to 39.40% in 2023, and it gained significant traction in southern districts. These gains came predominantly from traditional support among Reddys, Malas, and segments of OBCs disillusioned with the BRS.

The Congress is moving beyond its traditional Reddy and Mala base by courting OBCs through a 42% BC reservation plan and by making BC leader Mukesh Kumar Goud as the State Congress chief. Its aim is to chip away at the OBC support of the BRS and BJP. This marks a conscious attempt to reposition itself as a platform for backward caste assertion in Telangana. Yet the NDA is posing a challenge with a broad caste alliance that includes Kammas, Kapus, Madigas and many non-dominant OBCs, backed by the BJP's cadre strength, the TDP's grassroots networks, and the JSP's possible appeal among youth and Munnur Kapus.

Geographically, the NDA has managed to minimise internal friction: the BJP consolidates its hold over northern Telangana and urban pockets such as Hyderabad and Warangal, while the TDP is poised to recover ground in southern districts such as Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar, and Khammam. The alliance is thus strategically distributed.

The real concern for the Congress, then, is not its lack of social breadth, but whether it can institutionalise its emerging coalition into a stable political architecture. If the BRS fails to recover by reviving Telangana sentiment and decentralising its leadership, it risks becoming a spoiler in contests increasingly shaped by Congress-NDA rivalry. Telangana, therefore, is entering a competitive three-cornered phase, but one with asymmetrical stakes.

Pradeep Kumar Dontha is a political consultant and Vignesh Karthik K.R. is a postdoctoral research fellow of Indian and Indonesian politics at KITLV-Leiden

Three-way contest

The data was sourced from the Election Commission of India and IndiaVotes

Table: District-wise vote shares of various parties in Assembly elections in the Telangana region. Data for the period before bifurcation also pertains to the seats in the Telangana region, even though it was part of united Andhra Pradesh then

District	Party	Avg.	1999	2004	2009	2014	2018	2023
Adilabad	TDP	19.0%	48.9%	37.6%	18.9%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%
	BRS	26.3%	0.0%	17.8%	17.7%	43.4%	45.8%	33.4%
	INC	30.4%	38.1%	30.4%	30.2%	23.6%	30.6%	29.4%
	BJP	8.8%	0.0%	3.3%	3.9%	7.9%	10.0%	27.6%
Nizamabad	TDP	21.9%	46.6%	34.9%	37.7%	12.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	BRS	28.9%	0.0%	17.7%	16.7%	54.7%	49.7%	34.9%
	INC	35.5%	46.6%	35.2%	30.0%	31.5%	35.5%	34.2%
	BJP	8.3%	5.1%	2.7%	3.8%	5.3%	6.9%	26.2%
Karim-nagar	TDP	16.7%	46.5%	31.8%	17.2%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%
	BRS	32.0%	0.0%	30.3%	17.7%	52.6%	53.5%	37.9%
	INC	30.2%	41.5%	18.1%	27.7%	24.7%	27.6%	41.4%
	BJP	7.5%	9.0%	3.5%	6.0%	7.6%	6.2%	12.9%
Medak	TDP	19.9%	47.5%	35.4%	22.0%	14.6%	0.0%	0.0%
	BRS	29.8%	0.0%	24.9%	11.5%	42.5%	54.6%	45.3%
	INC	32.8%	41.3%	26.2%	36.1%	28.9%	29.3%	35.2%
	BJP	6.9%	6.1%	4.3%	3.8%	5.9%	8.1%	13.1%
Ranga Reddy	TDP	26.0%	51.1%	44.2%	24.3%	24.5%	11.9%	0.0%
	BRS	23.5%	0.0%	21.7%	6.1%	26.2%	45.4%	41.7%
	INC	27.7%	41.0%	16.3%	32.2%	22.4%	21.8%	32.5%
	BJP	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	6.6%	7.4%	8.6%	18.5%
Hyderabad	TDP	19.1%	43.2%	38.0%	13.6%	18.2%	1.7%	0.0%
	BRS	16.1%	0.0%	10.6%	3.7%	15.0%	33.8%	33.1%
	INC	22.4%	28.4%	25.3%	26.3%	14.0%	17.2%	23.3%
	BJP	15.2%	15.3%	10.4%	15.0%	14.8%	16.4%	19.4%
Mahbub nagar	TDP	23.3%	48.5%	39.9%	36.2%	12.6%	2.3%	0.0%
	BRS	23.5%	0.0%	10.9%	5.0%	36.1%	51.4%	37.7%
	INC	35.9%	39.8%	28.3%	37.2%	32.6%	30.6%	46.8%
	BJP	6.4%	7.0%	6.6%	4.5%	6.5%	5.5%	8.2%
Nalgonda	TDP	17.0%	38.6%	36.9%	13.7%	13.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	BRS	22.2%	0.0%	10.9%	8.2%	32.5%	47.1%	34.7%
	INC	38.4%	41.9%	26.5%	38.5%	30.8%	39.8%	52.9%
	BJP	3.3%	2.4%	1.9%	2.4%	4.8%	3.3%	4.9%
Warangal	TDP	20.4%	44.7%	36.1%	20.6%	14.6%	6.6%	0.0%
	BRS	29.0%	0.0%	24.7%	22.0%	42.9%	48.9%	35.3%
	INC	35.7%	42.5%	23.5%	40.0%	25.5%	30.7%	51.8%
	BJP	4.7%	6.6%	3.5%	2.5%	6.0%	2.8%	6.8%
Khammam	TDP	20.9%	33.1%	35.6%	12.4%	30.3%	14.2%	0.0%
	BRS	13.9%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	8.0%	39.8%	35.0%
	INC	31.1%	35.2%	28.6%	33.2%	17.5%	26.4%	45.5%
	BJP	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1975

Second link-up a cliff-hanger

Moscow, July 20: Soviet space scientists spent seven cliff-hanging minutes during the second docking operation between Apollo and Soyuz-19 as the two spacecraft buckled and rolled and even began to rotate, a Soviet space official revealed to-day.

Dr. Vladimir Syromyatnikov, the head of the Soviet-American task force which designed and built the docking mechanism used to join the two spacecraft during their flight together through space, said the final link-up had taken place under "extreme conditions".

The pitching and tossing about of the two spacecraft between 12:33 and 12:40 GMT had been "rather unexpected", he said. Space controllers watching the action on their television screens lived through seven emotion-filled minutes, he added.

He said the fact that all went well in the end was proof of the ability of the mechanism to withstand all the shocks to which it was subjected. "We do not know the exact reasons for yesterday's incident and specialists from the two countries are at work analysing the causes," Dr. Syromyatnikov said.

The Soviet expert said it would not have been "tragic" if the mechanism had buckled during the docking operation because the astronauts would have then taken immediate steps to separate the two spacecraft ready for their return to earth.

The docking mechanisms were not directly attached to the space capsules used in the descent to earth, Dr. Syromyatnikov noted.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1925

Indian provincial services

London, July 20: Replying to a question of Sir Charles Oman, as to whether any measures were contemplated for assimilating the position of European and British subjects serving in Provincial Services in India to that of either Civil Services in respect of the retirement on proportionate pension, Earl Winterton said that no general extension of the right to retirement rules was contemplated, but the Government of India was examining, in consultation with the local Governments, the possibility of entertaining applications of individual officers whose circumstances may appear to be of a very exceptional nature.

From Page One

Centre open to debate on Operation Sindoor

The Minister made it clear that the final call on discussions in Parliament would be taken by the Business Advisory Committees of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The Houses of Parliament will have 21 sittings during the session.

On the Opposition's demand for Mr. Modi to make a statement on the Pahalgam attack and other issues, Mr. Rijiju said: "I want to make it clear that the Prime Minister remains in Parliament except during foreign travel. The Prime Minister always remains in Parliament, but the Prime Minister does not remain in the House all the time." He said Cabinet Ministers were always present in both Houses to respond to the issues concerning their Ministries.

The Congress, however, maintained that it is the Prime Minister's moral responsibility to give a statement in Parliament on key issues. "We hope that the PM will fulfil his moral duty," Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi told presspersons. He warned that if the government failed to answer the questions that had been raised about the SIR, it would cast a doubt on the fairness of the poll process and future elections.

Meanwhile, Opposition parties from southern India sought clarity on the impending delimitation exercise, saying that it had been causing confusion among the electorate.

Kailash Yatra gives new impetus to ties: envoy

"In the next stage, China is willing to maintain communication with India through diplomatic and military channels, and in the spirit of equal consultation and mutual and equal security, further refine the border area management and control rules and strengthen confidence-building measures, so as to achieve sustainable peace and tranquillity in the border areas," Mr. Xu said.

"Resuming the pilgrimage for Indian pilgrims to the sacred mountain and lake in [Tibet] is an important initiative taken by China to improve relations between the two countries," the Chinese Ambassador said.

"Currently, the government departments of both China and India, as well as major airlines, have done a lot of work for the resumption of direct flights. We hope that direct flights between the two countries will be launched as soon as possible," he added.

'No third party targeted'

While the Defence Minister had visited Beijing and held bilateral talks, India had said that the SCO Defence Ministers meeting failed to find consensus as one country – referring to Pakistan – had held up the language on terrorism in a proposed joint statement. The Chinese Ambassador did not respond to a specific query about why the SCO had not included India's concerns over the Pahalgam terror attack and cross-border terrorism in the joint statement last month, pointing instead to an SCO "code of conduct" that members could express their positions but "should avoid bringing bilateral conflicts" to discussions, in a reference to India-Pakistan tensions.

Asked about the statement of India's Deputy Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Rahul R. Singh, about China's support to Pakistan during the four-day Operation Sindoor in May, Mr. Xu said that China-Pakistan ties did not "target any third party". In his comments, Lieutenant-General Singh had suggested that China had "used the neighbour [Pakistan] to cause pain" to India, in the manner of a "borrowed knife".

"Defence and security cooperation is part of the normal cooperation between China and Pakistan," Mr. Xu added, indicating that Mr. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had already discussed the issue.

While side-stepping another question about whether China's trilaterals with other countries in South Asia – including a recent China-Bangladesh-Pakistan initiative on trade, and a China-Pakistan-Afghanistan initiative on infrastructure – were a way of "cutting India out" of the SAARC region, Mr. Xu said that India was welcome to join any of the initiatives, and hoped that China and India could create other trilateral partnerships with countries in the region. He claimed that in the past 12 years since the launch of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which India has refused to join, trade between China and South Asian countries "doubled from less than $100 billion to about $200 billion".

Dalai Lama succession

He said the issue of the Dalai Lama's reincarnation was an "internal matter" for China, and warned that statements from India would be seen as "interference". During the celebrations for his 90th birthday in Dharamshala earlier this month, the 14th Dalai Lama had announced that his successor would be chosen by his office, not by China or any other authority, a statement that was supported by Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju. Subsequently, the Ministry of External Affairs had said that the Indian government had "no position" and makes "no statement" on the issue.

"We have noted the MEA of India's response to media queries regarding the statement by the 14th Dalai Lama. However, it cannot be denied that some officials of India openly expressed their welcome and support for the statement by the 14th Dalai Lama, and attended his 90th birthday celebration," Mr. Xu said. "Such words and deeds are, in essence, promoting interfering in China's internal affairs using [Tibet]-related issues, contrary to Indian government's public stance," he added.

Prime Minister to visit U.K., Maldives this week

Modi is expected to unveil India-U.K. trade pact that was announced in May; he has been invited to Maldives for Independence Day celebrations; maritime security talks on the cards with Muizzu

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a two-nation visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives from July 23 to 26, the External Affairs Ministry announced on Sunday.

During the visit to the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister is expected to unveil the bilateral trade agreement that was announced by both sides on May 6.

"During the visit, Prime Minister Modi will hold wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister [Keir] Starmer on the entire gamut of India-U.K. bilateral relations. They will also exchange views on issues of regional and global importance," the Ministry said in a statement. The visit will also include a meeting with King Charles III.

Mr. Modi had announced the trade deal on May 6, describing it as "ambitious and mutually beneficial". The announcement followed a telephone conversation with Mr. Starmer.

On agenda: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his U.K. counterpart, Keir Starmer, at the G20 Summit last year. PTI

Negotiations for the agreement, which began in 2022, witnessed several delays due to changes in government in the U.K. The British government has described the agreement as "the biggest and most economically significant bilateral trade deal".

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had visited the U.K. in June to lay the groundwork for the unveiling of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The visit will include a review of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between the two countries, "with a specific focus on trade and economy, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate, health, education and people-to-people ties," the External Affairs Ministry said.

Guest of Honour

Following the U.K. leg of the tour, Mr. Modi will travel to the Maldives on July 25 at the invitation of President Mohamed Muizzu. He will be the Guest of Honour at the 60th Independence Day celebrations of the Maldives on July 26.

"The two leaders will also take stock of the progress in the implementation of the India-Maldives Joint Vision for a 'Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership,' adopted during the State Visit of the President of Maldives to India in October 2024," the Ministry said.

Nepal Ministry says PM Oli will visit India in September

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

K.P. Sharma Oli

Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli will pay an official visit to India towards mid-September, Nepal's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

"Preparations for the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister are under way. However, the date and the detailed schedules of the visit are yet to be finalised," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lok Bahadur Chhetri said.

However, sources at the Prime Minister's Office said that Mr. Oli will embark on his official visit to the southern neighbour on September 16. The visit will be short this time, probably for two days, the sources added.

Mr. Oli, the chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), had assumed the office of Prime Minister for the fourth time last July.

He had chosen to visit China for his maiden foreign visit, breaking the tradition of visiting India as the first destination after assuming the post of Prime Minister. Mr. Oli visited China in December last year at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang and met President Xi Jinping.

'Soured ties'

Amid speculation by some sections of local media that he didn't receive any invitation from India for an official visit, indicating that his relations with New Delhi had soured, Mr. Oli on Thursday said he will be visiting India and that ground work is under way on both sides for the trip.

He, however, did not specify any timeframe for the visit.

Petition in SC seeks 'effective, meaningful' probe into judge case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The plea echoes the inquiry committee report which also criticised the Delhi Police for lack of quick action

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court criticising the Centre for not initiating "an effective and meaningful investigation" into allegations of discovery and removal of "burnt" cash from the residential premises of High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, in Delhi following a fire.

"The Central government, which is in charge of the Delhi Police, on it being reported that there has been an incident of huge volumes of currency notes, burned and partially burned, being found and clandestinely removed from the official residence of Justice Varma, was duty-bound to direct the Delhi Police to register a First Information Report (FIR). It amounts to a great failure in the discharge of its sovereign function, nay, duty to investigate crimes and secure punishment to those who violate the law," advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara, petitioner-in-person, submitted in a petition.

In fact, the petition echoed the very report of the in-house inquiry committee constituted by then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna which had also criticised the Delhi Police for its lack of quick action.

The panel had concluded that the police and fire authorities were "slipshod" for not lodging an FIR or preparing a seizure memo.

Justice Varma too has focused his defence on the lack of any material evidence to base the allegations being raised against him.

Mr. Nedumpara's petition is the third in a series filed by the advocate in the top court for registration of an FIR.

Prime accused, three more arrested in Kolkata for murder of Bihar gangster

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Kolkata Police on Saturday night arrested the prime accused and three more persons for the murder of Bihar gangster Chandan Mishra in Patna.

"In an intelligence-based operation by Kolkata Police STF, four persons involved in the Chandan Mishra murder case of Patna have been taken into custody. Bihar Police are taking necessary legal action to produce the accused before the competent court," the Kolkata Police said in a statement.

Mishra was out on parole and was shot dead inside a private hospital in Patna on Thursday.

Those arrested included the prime accused, Tausif Khan, alias Badshah, and Nishu Khan.

The arrests were made around 10 p.m. during a raid at a guest house in Anandapur, a senior Kolkata Police official told *The Hindu*.

In the net: The four accused being taken to a court in Kolkata on Sunday. DEBASISH BHADURI

The accused were produced before the Alipore Police Court on Sunday and remanded in 48-hour transit custody.

"We tracked them down based on human and technical intelligence. Tausif has been identified as the possible lead of the hit team. He was the first to enter and the last to exit during the act," said the official.

While being taken into custody, Nishu told media-persons at the Kolkata Police lock-up that Tausif, a relative, had allegedly executed the killing on the instructions of Sheru Singh, a criminal he had reportedly met at the Beur Jail in Bihar.

The police official said it "seems likely" that the crime was carried out on Singh's instructions.

These arrests follow the apprehension of five other accused earlier on Saturday.

They were picked up from Sukhobrishti, a housing complex in New Town on the outskirts of Kolkata.

Operation under way in Kishtwar, Army says

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

An encounter between terrorists and security forces broke out on Sunday afternoon in the mountainous region of Kishtwar district, located in the Chenab Valley. Official sources indicated that three or four terrorists are believed to be trapped at the encounter site.

An Army spokesperson confirmed that under Operation Cherji, the Indian Army launched a search operation in the Hadal Gal area of Kishtwar Sector on Sunday. "The operation was based on specific inputs [about the presence of terrorists]," the Army spokesperson said.

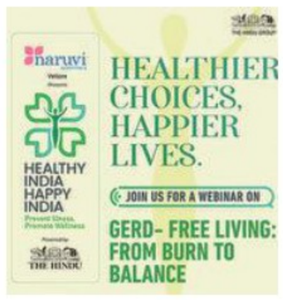
The Army reported that contact was established with terrorists during the search operation, and intense gunfire was exchanged in the area. "The operation is currently in progress," the Army added, suggesting that the terrorists were still holed up at the site.

Early diagnosis, lifestyle changes can prevent GERD complications: experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Doctors on Sunday stressed the need for early diagnosis and simple lifestyle changes to prevent further complications due to gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), a digestive disorder. They were speaking at a webinar on "GERD-free Living: From Burn to Balance".

It was the final episode of the 15-part webinar series under the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative' by the Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*.


naruvi
HEALTHY INDIA HAPPY INDIA
HEALTHIER CHOICES, HAPPIER LIVES.
JOIN US FOR A WEBINAR ON
GERD- FREE LIVING: FROM BURN TO BALANCE

E. Rabindranath and Jacob Raja A.S., both consultants at Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, and A.C. Arun, clinical lead, gastroenterology, at Lily Mission Hospital, Madurai, spoke on common concerns over GERD. Explaining the digestive system and the role of oesophageal sphincter, Dr. Jacob said the sphincter acts as the gateway between the lower oesophagus and the stomach to prevent regurgitation. "When the gastroesophageal reflux happens multiple times in a week impacting quality of life, work and sleep and causes symptoms such as persistent heart burn, chest pain, trouble in swallowing, then it can turn into a chronic medical condition called the GERD and requires treatment," he said.

Dr. Jacob said the global burden of GERD was quite high – one in five individuals – with Europe, North America, and parts of Asia reporting high numbers of cases. In comparison, India reports fewer cases, but its prevalence is increasing in young adults given their unhealthy lifestyle and eating habits.

Speaking on diagnosis, lifestyle changes, and management of GERD, Dr. Rabindranath advised people to quit smoking and alcohol consumption and to avoid spicy and fatty foods and late night meals. He also advised against sedentary lifestyle and stress and called for practising intake portion control and weight management. "GERD mimics heart issues, oesophageal disorders, stomach issues, anxiety episodes, and panic attacks; therefore, medical consultation is important," he added.

Sharing tips to manage GERD, he advised "elevating the head during sleep, keeping a gap of three to four hours between dinner and sleep, sleeping on the left side, and wearing loose clothes while exercising".

Dr. Arun spoke on how endoscopy helps to identify the complications and anatomical damage due to reflux episodes. "Leaving GERD symptoms untreated could lead to oesophageal ulcers and strictures making it difficult to swallow food, vomiting of blood and pre-cancerous condition," he said.

The webinar is available on https://bit.ly/THNaruvi15

Tribunal upholds ED seizure of Chanda Kochhar's assets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chanda Kochhar

The Appellate Tribunal under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act has found a "prima facie case" in the matter allegedly involving Chanda Kochhar, former chief executive officer of ICICI Bank, and others.

In a recent order partially confirming the Enforcement Directorate's asset attachment, while hearing the agency's appeal against the Adjudicating Authority's order, the Appellate Tribunal observed: "It may be true that the issue will be determined by the trial court but we find a *prima facie* case against the respondents for commission of the offence of money laundering and, therefore, the provisional attachment order is justified."

The ED had challenged the order dated November 6, 2020, passed by the Adjudicating Authority. The case was regarding sanction of loans to Videocon Group of Companies in contravention of the Rules and policies of the ICICI Bank.

Girl set ablaze by miscreants in Odisha flown to Delhi AIIMS

Decision to shift the 15-year-old girl, who has sustained close to 75% burns, was taken after a team of specialist doctors at the AIIMS in Bhubaneswar observed some improvement in her condition; Opposition parties continue protest over incident

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The 15-year-old girl who sustained over 75% burns after being set ablaze by unidentified miscreants in Puri district of Odisha on Saturday was flown to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on Sunday for advanced medical treatment.

The decision to shift the girl to the New Delhi hospital was taken after a team of specialist doctors at the AIIMS in Bhubaneswar observed some improvement in her condition. Notably, despite being severely traumatised both mentally and physically, the girl was able to speak.

On Saturday, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi had said the State government would provide air ambulance support if doctors deemed her fit for transfer.

A green corridor was created between the AIIMS and the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar to facilitate her swift transfer on a life-support-equipped ambulance. Additional forces had been deployed. The girl was accompanied by two family members and a team of doctors on the aircraft.

On the move: An ambulance with the 15-year-old burns victim heading towards the airport in Bhubaneswar to be flown to Delhi on Sunday. BISWARANJAN ROUT

'Praying for recovery'

"I am deeply saddened by the incident that took place in Balanga, Puri district. The victim has been airlifted to Delhi AIIMS for the best treatment. The State government will ensure all necessary facilities for this. I personally pray to Lord Jagannath for the speedy recovery of the girl," Mr. Majhi said on the social media platform 'X'.

The AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, said a special bed and a team of doctors had been kept ready at the New Delhi institute for immediate attention of the victim. The State government also put in a request for the creation of a green corridor in New Delhi so that there would not be any loss of time in transferring the girl to the premier medical facility.

The girl was on her way to her uncle's house when she was intercepted by three individuals and taken to the bank of the Bhargavi river, where she was set on fire with an inflammable substance. A man from a nearby house came to her aid and managed to douse the flames.

Police sources said eight persons, including some relatives of the victim, were being questioned to get any lead on the heinous crime. Forensic teams visited the spot for the second time in search of more clues.

'Will take up issue'

Meanwhile, agitations by Opposition political parties continued across the State. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) members staged a demonstration outside the Balanga police station in Puri.

At an all party meeting, BJD Rajya Sabha member Sasmit Patra said his party would take up all issues, especially the deteriorating law and order situation in Odisha in light of the 15-year-old girl being set on fire and the death of a girl after self-immolation on her college campus, in the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning on Monday. He said women and girls had come under attack in the State.

Mamata to address the last Martyrs' Day rally before Assembly election today

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Ahead of the Assembly election in 2026, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will on Monday address the last Martyrs' Day rally before the polls.

The rally is expected to set the tone for the election and discuss the political road map. Identity politics is likely to take centre stage as the Trinamool Congress has targeted the Bharatiya Janta Party for attacks on Bengali-speaking migrants in BJP-ruled States.

The founding chairperson of the Trinamool Congress will spotlight "Bengali pride" and address party workers from across the State at the annual meeting in the heart of Kolkata at the Esplanade crossing.

Brewing issue

Tensions have been brewing in the State after reports of repeated linguistic profiling of Bengali speaking migrants in Odisha, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujrat, and Chhattisgarh.

Against this backdrop, Ms. Banerjee, her nephew and Trinamool's second-in-command, Abhishek Banerjee, and all prominent party leaders took to the streets on July 16, and said protests would rage across the country if Bengalis continued to be harassed.

Taking stock: Mamata Banerjee visiting the rally site in Kolkata on Sunday to inspect the preparations. DEBASISH BHADURI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a political rally in Durgapur on July 18, and said that Bengali language and identity were paramount to the BJP. "Wherever there is a BJP government, Bengalis are respected, Bengali language is respected... We will not allow this conspiracy against Bengali *ashmita* [identity and pride] to succeed," the Prime Minister said.

Notably, the issue of regional Bengali identity and pride had helped the Trinamool defeat the BJP in the 2021 Assembly election.

Ms. Banerjee also visited the Martyrs' Day rally site on Sunday and inspected the preparations a day ahead of the main event.

Observed annually, the Martyrs' Day rally commemorates the police firing on July 21, 1993, that left 13 youth activists dead. Over the years, the event has evolved into a show of political strength and sharpening of political battle lines.

The party supporters have already started arriving in Kolkata and are expected to show up in huge numbers on Monday. Tents and camps have been set up at a ground in Bidhannagar for the party workers for the day.

AAP rejects resignation of Punjab MLA Anmol Gagan

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

A day after Aam Aadmi Party leader and former Minister Anmol Gagan Mann announced quitting politics and tendered her resignation as legislator from the Assembly, the party on Sunday rejected her decision.

Ms. Mann was one of the four Ministers dropped from the Cabinet in 2024. The AAP's Punjab president, Aman Arora, said that he had met Ms. Mann and conveyed that the party had rejected her resignation. "We agreed to continue working together for the progress of the party and the constituency," he said on X.

Prioritise national interest over politics, Dhankhar tells all parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has urged all parties to prioritise national interest over politics, and called for bonhomie and constructive engagement ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

"I appeal to everyone in the political spectrum, please have mutual respect. Please don't trade unbecoming language on television or otherwise against the leadership of one party or the other," he said at the inaugural programme for the eighth batch of participants of the Rajya Sabha Internship Programme (RSIP) at the Vice-President's Enclave on Sunday.

Jagdeep Dhankhar at a programme for the eighth batch of participants of the Rajya Sabha Internship Programme. X/@VPINDIA

He said a thriving democracy could not afford an atmosphere of constant acrimony. "Every Indian political party and every parliamentarian, to my knowledge, is a nationalist at the end of the day. He believes in the nation. He believes in the progress of the nation...," he said.

Call for discussion

Against the backdrop of Opposition parties demanding a detailed discussion on Operation Sindoor and U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated claims of brokering peace between India and Pakistan during the recent conflict, the Vice-President said that politics should not be prioritised over national interest.

"Let us not have politics when it is an issue of national security, national concern and that can happen because India has to stand proud amongst the comity of nations. We are well regarded in the world. The very idea that Bharat can be controlled from outside goes against our claim. We are a nation, a sovereign nation. Why should our political agenda be set by forces that are inimical to Bharat? Why should our agenda be even influenced by our enemies?" he said.

Advocate moves SC against Raj Thackeray for 'anti-Hindi' remarks

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A public interest litigation (PIL) petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking criminal proceedings against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray for allegedly inciting violence and spreading linguistic hatred against Hindi-speaking citizens in Maharashtra. The petition follows Mr. Thackeray's recent speeches against the State government's resolution to make Hindi the third language in schools.

In his petition filed on Friday, advocate Ghanshyam Upadhyay alleged that Mr. Thackeray and his party engaged in acts of aggression based on caste, creed, and language. The petition claims that these activities pose a serious threat to the sovereignty, integrity, and unity of India, and have continued unchecked and with impunity. It calls for strict legal action under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The hearing is expected in the coming week.

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NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/CRP/25-26/14 Date: 21.07.2025

E-Tender is invited for procurement of Control and Relay Panels. Bid documents can be downloaded from **21.07.2025, 11:00 A.M.** and bid shall be submitted online up to **12:00 Noon, 20.08.2025.**
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

ICA- T15308(3)/2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management - East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/555/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
1	Providing and commissioning biogas engine with scrubber (Standby) at 60 MLD STP, Challaghatta Valley coming under EE(WWM-STP-CV) Division (3rd Call).	Rs. 408.56 Lakh / Rs. 6.13 Lakh

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **04.08.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** The bids opening is on **05.08.2025 at 17:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-East)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management - West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/771/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
2	Improvement work of installation of Trash rack and Macerators at 60 MLD Kengeri UWTP under JHA funds coming under AEE (WWM-STP) V.V.-1 Sub-division (3rd Call).	Rs. 286.41 Lakh / Rs. 4.29 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/777/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
3	Works of Including Implementation of Coarse Screen & UF 1 MLD at 40 MLD Rajacanal Phase II UWTP under JHA Funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H &A.V-1) Sub-division (3rd Call).	Rs. 387.70 Lakh / Rs. 5.81 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/783/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
4	Work of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Submersible ultra heavy duty, dredging vertical pumpset, CMMS, Solar Panels & UV Disinfection at Chikkabanavara coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A-2) Sub-division (2nd call).	Rs. 123.18 Lakh / Rs. 1.85 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/779/2025-26		Date: 19.07.2025
5	Improvement work of Installation, Supply & Commissioning of Odour Control Unit (OCU) at Hebbal 100 MLD UWTP coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A-1) Sub-division (3rd Call).	Rs. 403.44 Lakh / Rs. 6.05 Lakh

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **30.07.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** The bids opening is on **31.07.2025 at 17:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/1945/2025-26

Row over Minister 'playing mobile game' in Maharashtra House

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

A political row erupted in Maharashtra after a video, purportedly of Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate playing online rummy on his mobile phone during the ongoing Assembly session, surfaced on Sunday. The clip, shared by Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar, triggered outrage from Opposition leaders, who accused the government of being indifferent to the agrarian crisis in the State.

The video went viral on social media. Posting the video on X, Mr. Pawar added that the Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar-led NCP, to which Mr. Kokate belongs, was functioning "under the shadow of the BJP", a partner in the ruling *Mahayuti* alliance.

"The ruling NCP faction cannot accomplish anything without consulting the BJP. Even though so many agricultural issues remain unaddressed and eight farmers commit suicide daily in the State, the Agriculture Minister... seems to have time to play rummy," he said.

He added, "Will these misguided Ministers and the government hear the desperate cry of the farmers demanding crop insurance, loan waivers, and price support? Come to the fields of poor farmers once in a while, Maharaj."

Facing backlash, Mr. Kokate issued a clarification, claiming the video was "misleading". He said the clip showed only a few seconds during which he was attempting to access YouTube to check the business conducted in the Lower House, and the game app had opened automatically.

" The downloaded game suddenly opened, and I was skipping it. It was a matter of just five to 10 seconds; why was that part not shown?" he said.

Over 58% Dalit voters in Bihar think unemployment is biggest poll issue: survey

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

More than 27.4% Dalit voters in Bihar have 'no trust' in the Election Commission, the survey also found

More than 27.4% Dalit voters in Bihar have "no trust" in the Election Commission (EC), a new survey released ahead of the Assembly election in the State has found. It also shows that over 58% Scheduled Caste (SC) voters in the State thought that unemployment was the biggest issue in the upcoming polls.

The survey was conducted and released by the National Confederation of Dalit and Adivasi Associations (NACDAOR), a conglomerate of hundreds of associations across the nation. It covered a total of 18,581 SC voters from across the State and was conducted between June 10 and July 4, Ashok Bharti, Chairman of NACDAOR, told *The Hindu*.

He added that since the Election Commission started its special intensive revision of the rolls as the survey was under way, one question was put on the survey mid-way, for which only around 8,500 responses could be gathered.

Fear of losing vote

To the question "Do you fear losing your vote in the new voter list?", over 71% of the respondents said "yes" and 23.4% said "no" with a little over 5% not expressing an opinion. On the question of whether they trusted the EC to be impartial, over 27% said "no", about 51% said "yes", and 21% said they did not know.

The survey asked a total of 11 questions.

It found that while over 47.5% of the respondents said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was their favourite leader at the national level, 40.3% said Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and about 12% said other politicians.

It further said that to the question "who do they credit for the caste census?", 33.15% respondents said Narendra Modi, 30.81% Rahul Gandhi, 27.57% Bihar Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, and about 8% other politicians.

Further, the survey showed that about 48% said the work of the Nitish Kumar-led government was "bad", while about 45% said it was good.

Mr. Bharti told *The Hindu*, "A lot of people do surveys of Scheduled Castes, but hardly do many of them actually speak to us on the ground. This survey is of Dalits, by Dalits."

INBRIEF

Chandra Barot, who directed Amitabh's *Don*, passes away

Veteran filmmaker Chandra Barot, best known for directing the 1978 Amitabh Bachchan-starrer *Don*, passed away on Sunday due to cardiac arrest at a hospital in Mumbai, his family said. He was 86. Barot was battling 'idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis' for the past 11 years and had been receiving treatment at the Guru Nanak Hospital, according to his family. "Chandra passed away at the Guru Nanak Hospital this morning at 6.30 due to cardiac arrest caused by a chest infection. He had IPF, which is fibrosis of the lungs, for the past 11 years," his wife Deepa Barot said. After *Don*, Barot directed a Bengali film *Aashrita*. PTI

INTUC asks Centre for invitation to tripartite talks

The working committee of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the trade union arm of the Congress, which met in New Delhi on Sunday, has resolved to question the Centre's decision not to invite it to various tripartite panels. Pointing to last month's deadly Air India crash in Ahmedabad, INTUC said it was proof that the policy of privatisation is a serious threat to the life and safety of the common people. The trade union also favoured the formation of workers' cooperatives against exploitation by online and platform companies.Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said that the BJP-led government does not care for the welfare of workers.

Cattle traders in Maharashtra to launch boycott amid 'harassment'

Members of the Muslim Qureshi community condemn the violent attacks on cattle transporters by *gau rakshaks*; community body has announced an indefinite trade boycott from today, has also met the DGP seeking police protection

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The members of the Qureshi community engaged in cattle trade have allegedly been harassed by cow vigilante groups. FILE PHOTO

Mohammed Sufiyan, 25, a licensed cattle trader in Washim district of Maharashtra, says he was shocked when his buffaloes were detained by "*gau rakshaks* (cow vigilantes) with the help of the local police" in May, while being shifted from Badnera in Amravati district to Washim.

"I received a court order and paid ₹65,000 as *khavati* [maintenance payment for animals in custody], but I am yet to get my buffaloes back," says Mr. Sufiyan, adding that cow vigilantes had obtained a stay order, and a hearing is scheduled in August. Mr. Sufiyan and his father are licensed traders who buy and sell cattle for a living. "I may have to pay more depending on how the August 11 hearing goes. I cannot even think of the loss I have to bear. It makes no sense to continue in this business," he said.

Mr. Sufiyan is not in the slaughter business, but says he still faces the squeeze. The situation is worse for several other members of the Muslim Qureshi community dealing in buffalo and other bovine meat, be it traders or butchers, who have allegedly been harassed by cow vigilante groups, including members of the Bajrang Dal. The harassment has lasted for over a decade now, they allege.

According to the Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2015, a fitness certificate from a veterinary doctor is required for slaughtering buffaloes, certifying that the buffalo is "unfit" for milking and not pregnant. However, community members say *gau rakshak* groups "harass them" even though they follow the law.

Condemning the violent attacks on cattle and meat traders and transporters, and the heavy losses and trauma caused by such attacks, members of the Qureshi community have staged protests across Maharashtra. They have also announced an indefinite boycott of cattle trade from Monday. "Some of the traders have already stopped dealing in cattle; however, formally, we are launching a complete boycott in Maharashtra from July 21," says Shabir Qureshi of the All India Jamiatul Quresh (AIJQ), a traders' union.

A delegation of the traders' body also met Minister of State for Home (Urban) Yogesh Kadam and Director-General of Police Rashmi Shukla, seeking protection from the self-proclaimed *gau rakshaks*. "Both have given us oral assurance that action will be taken as per law," claims Abdul Sadiq Qureshi, Vidharba chief of the AIJQ.

In a letter to the DGP on July 2, the AIJQ highlighted "harassment" and "loss of life and property" suffered by those who transport animals within Maharashtra and requested that "police officers" in the respective jurisdictions be directed to remain "extra-vigilant and control harassment" of the community. The community also says atrocities had increased after the Maharashtra Animal Preservation Act, 1976 was amended in March 2015, prohibiting the slaughter of cows, bulls, oxen, and bullocks.

Citing the amended law, AIJQ president Mohammed Arif Chowdhary said in the letter, "Under Section 5A of the said Act, there is no restriction for transport of animals such as goats, sheep, buffaloes and other bovines within the State, including for purposes of being butchered."

Some of the Qureshi community's demands include protection for legal animal traders; the prohibition of illegal interference and harassment; accountability for inaction of the police and administration; ensuring smooth operation of slaughter houses; and ending violence against the community on religious grounds.

"The boycott will impact all farmers as they depend on the Qureshi community to sell aged animals and buy new ones," says Amravati-based trader Shaikh Afsar, adding buying and selling cattle is part of the farming ecosystem.

NDRF trains dogs for use in disaster operations

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will soon press into service its first contingent of cadaver dogs who can sniff out the dead or human remains in a disaster zone, an officer at the agency said. About half a dozen such dogs have been under training at the NDRF battalion bases in Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh for the last few months, they said.

"To train the special canines, largely from the Belgian Malinois and Labrador breeds, the force has procured a special scent from abroad that smells akin to the odour emitted by a dead body," he said. "Utilising the golden hour of finding life during a disaster has been the guiding principle of the rescuers, and hence finding the dead or mortal remains was not a priority," an NDRF officer said. "However, we have seen that the force is also part of operations where NDRF is tasked with retrieving bodies from under the debris," he said. "Finding bodies or human remains is important to give closure to the families and loved ones," he said.

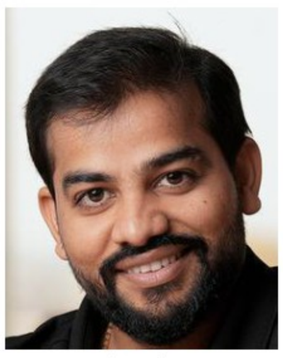
CoinDCX hit by ₹378-crore security breach; founders say customer funds unaffected

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX has suffered a security breach, resulting in theft of $44.2 million, or nearly ₹378 crore, even as the founders took to X to reassure that customer funds remained unaffected and safe, with the compromise limited to an internal operational account.

The total exposure is being absorbed entirely by CoinDCX, using the company's treasury reserves, the company said in a first incident report released on Sunday.

According to the report, on Saturday, at 4 a.m., CoinDCX security systems detected an incident involving unauthorised access to one of its accounts on the partner exchange, leading to a financial exposure of about $44 million.



CoinDCX co-founder Sumit Gupta said that the attack targeted an internal wallet.

The incident once again puts the spotlight on mounting security threats in the highly volatile world of cryptocurrencies.

Last year, crypto exchange WazirX faced a hack in India, leading to the loss of more than $230 million. The theft had prompted a thorough examination of safety measures and eroded sentiments.

CoinDCX co-founders Sumit Gupta and Neeraj Khandelwal took to X to address the situation, confirming that the attack was the result of a sophisticated server breach, targeting an internal wallet, not the ones holding customer assets. The incident was first flagged by blockchain investigator ZachXBT.

"Today, one of our internal operational accounts -- used only for liquidity provisioning on a partner exchange – was compromised due to a sophisticated server breach. I confirm that the CoinDCX wallets used to store customer assets are not impacted and are completely safe. This won't cause any loss to our customers. CoinDCX will be bearing the full amount," Mr. Gupta said.

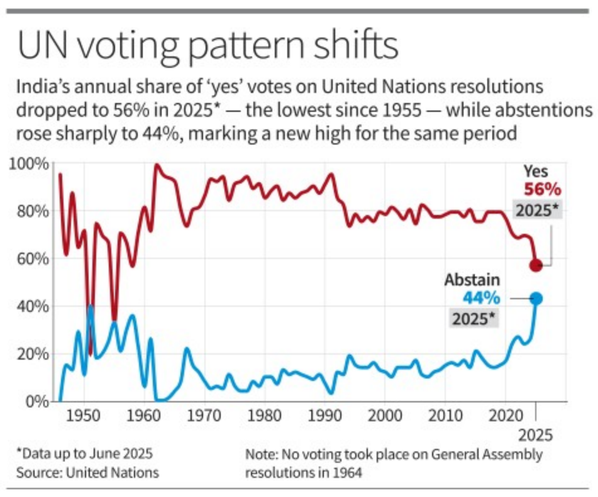
Annual share of abstentions in India's votes at the United Nations reaches an all-time high

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

An increasingly polarised world has led to India altering its voting strategy at the United Nations in such a way that the proportion of abstentions every year has increased, while the 'yes' votes have reduced, an analysis has found. According to former diplomats, this rise in the share of abstentions could in fact help India establish its own position on various issues.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of more than 5,500 different resolutions in the UN that India voted on between 1946 and June 2025 shows that the annual percentage of 'yes' votes by India has fallen to 56%, the lowest since 1955. On the other hand, the annual percentage of abstentions has increased to 44%, the highest share in India's history at the UN.

The data show that this change in voting patterns began around 2019.



India's voting pattern remained volatile until the late 1960s, with the percentage of annual 'yes' votes swinging between 20% and 100% during this period. The percentage of abstentions also fluctuated between 0% and 40%.

The subsequent 25 years – between around 1970 and 1994 – saw the magnitude of this volatility decrease substantially. The percentage of annual 'yes' votes during this period ranged between a low of 74% and a high of 96%. Annual abstentions ranged between 8% and 19%.

Between the mid-1990s and 2019, India's voting patterns in the UN became even more stable, with the share of 'yes' votes ranging between 75% and 83%. The share of abstentions ranged between 10% and 17%.

According to former representatives to the UN, the increase in abstentions is simultaneously a reflection of an increasingly polarised world, as well as a reflection of the fact that UN resolutions have become much more complicated.

'A useful tool'

"This may best be looked at through a much wider lens than merely an India-centric one to better understand the pattern," T.S. Tirumurti, former Permanent Representative of India to the UN, explained. "It is probably a reflection of greater polarisation between major powers in the UN. This has resulted in a lesser incentive to make compromises by either side to strive hard for a consensus resolution, which was the case a decade or so earlier."

In such a context, Mr. Tirumurti said abstentions also provide emerging and middle powers like India the opportunity to express themselves more freely, rather than merely going along with the consensus or voting against it.

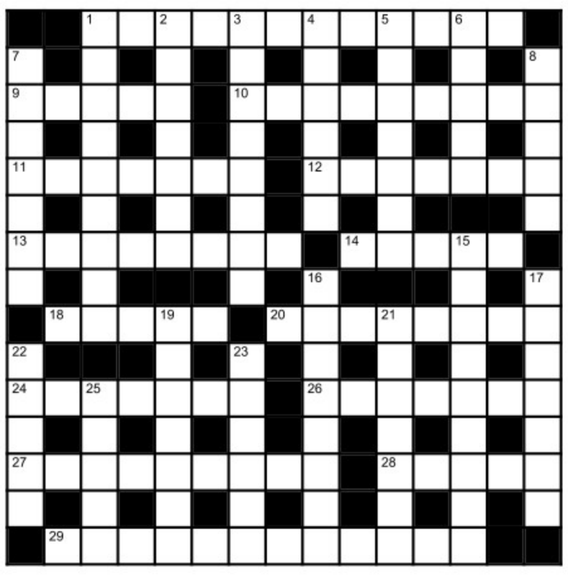
Voting for or against a resolution has also become more fraught now because they have become very complicated, according to Syed Akbaruddin, former Permanent Representative of India in the UN. "Previously, resolutions used to be clear and focussed on one topic," he explained. "What happens now is that contested resolutions are becoming like Christmas trees, where several different aspects and provisions are hung on the same resolution. So, there are situations where we might agree with most of the provisions of a resolution but not with some. In such situations, we cannot vote 'yes' or 'no', and so abstention is a useful tool."

TH CROSSWORD + 14542

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 According to Spooner, beggars dance when author lacks inspiration at times (7,5)
9 Beggar going around neighbourhood collecting money (5)
10 Expert statement, master rejected by apple of the eye (9)
11 Handsome earl bent to hug girl (7)
12 Name that is assumed by everyone carrying plastic money with no hassle ultimately (7)
13 Dummies for babies to suck, then rest (8)
14 Drop small court petition first (5)
18 Give up cocaine immediately to make up for deficiencies (5)
20 Bear touring around Accra often in container (3,5)
24 Praises once in a funny manner about plan (7)
26 Ready for action, thespian performing without a trace of tears (2,5)
27 Haze and frost follow wind destroying island in peace (9)
28 Unpleasant smell from skunk essentially passing through swinging door (5)
29 Ask section about eligible trains primarily. It is good for several trips (6,6)

Down

1 How a table could become a conveyance! (9)
2 Short drive, almost long charge (7)
3 Continuing in the same way, alien chasing alien participating in mixed race (2,6)
4 Relish deer (6)
5 Fabrication prolonged, goes unnoticed (4,3)
6 Unadulterated drug infesting society (5)
7 Freethinker takes time to participate in a robbery (7)
8 At start, players must struggle for wicket (5)
15 Amount for one differing from others in a group? (3-3-3)
16 Using brie repeatedly causes disease! (8)
17 Both years unusual, so sad to remove from memory (2,5)
19 Magi returned without taking special revenge! (7)
21 Money in short supply? No tension for outerwear (7)
22 Right side of a cricket field at arm's length basically (5)
23 Food and the like, one rejected in counter-attack (6)
25 Celestial object swapped tails for philosopher (5)

SUDOKU

				7	5			
2	5	6	4					
7			1			3		
1						5		9
	6	4				7	1	
3		7						6
		1			4			8
					8	9	6	3
			7	3				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

W	A	T	C	H	D	O	G		S	H	A	M	A	N
	R		A		E		E		T		U		F	
S	C	A	N		C	O	T	T	O	N	T	A	I	L
	H		O		R				R		O		R	
M	I	S	E	R	Y		S	H	A	G	G	I	E	R
	T				P		H		G		R			
R	E	P	E	R	T	O	I	R	E		A	J	A	R
	C		P				N				P		P	
E	T	U	I		P	R	I	O	R	S	H	I	P	S
			S		R		N		E				E	
P	A	R	T	S	O	N	G		S	C	R	E	A	M
	M		O		V				I		E		S	
V	I	L	L	A	I	N	O	U	S		P	R	E	Y
	S		I		S		U		T		E		R	
P	S	Y	C	H	O		T	U	S	K	L	E	S	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	8	9	3	4	6	5	7
9	3	6	1	7	5	2	8	4
7	4	5	2	6	8	1	3	9
6	5	1	8	4	7	3	9	2
4	8	7	3	2	9	5	1	6
3	2	9	5	1	6	4	7	8
5	6	2	7	8	3	9	4	1
1	7	3	4	9	2	8	6	5
8	9	4	6	5	1	7	2	3

FAITH

Bhagavata Dharmam

Dharmas can be classified into various types, such as Sannyasa dharma, Sthree dharma, and Raja dharma. Sannyasa dharma is meant only for ascetics. Sthree dharma is only for women. Raja dharma refers to the specific rules and regulations that a king is expected to adhere to. These dharmas are exclusive to each category. Sri. Muralidhara Swamigal said in a discourse that Yudhishtra asked the grandsire Bhishma whether there is any common dharma that can be followed by all, irrespective of gender, caste, creed, religion, or language. The grand sire replied that there is a dharma called "Bhagavata Dharmam" which can be adopted by all.

In the eleventh *skandha* (chapter) of *Srimad Bhagavatam*, it is elaborately explained what Bhagavata dharma is. A king asks the Navayogis, "What should I do so that God will be pleased and give Himself to me?" One of the Nava yogis, Yogikavi, asks the king to follow Bhagavata dharma, which implies chanting or calling the names of God. God likes the Bhagavata dharma, as He introduced it to the world so that people could reach Him.

It is rare to be born as a human being, and people cannot afford to waste this opportunity. Saint Pattinathar says life is like a pot filled with water, and if spilt, cannot be collected and put back into the pot. We should approach an Acharya and learn the dharma from him. People should not attempt to do it themselves. It will be like a person plucking a lotus from a pond in the evening and showing the same before the Sun the next morning to blossom. (Will it?) The grace of the Acharyas is like the water in a pond, which helps our lives blossom.

Personal loan: avoid 5 mistakes

Santosh Agarwal

Personal loan is often the preferred credit option for those seeking quick credit access with minimal documentation and no collateral. However, this ease of access leads many borrowers to overlook crucial aspects, leading to higher interest costs, unexpected charges or even a debt trap. Here are five common mistakes loan applicants should avoid:

Not getting credit report early

Your credit score is one of the first filters lenders would use to evaluate creditworthiness. Those with higher credit scores usually have better chances of loan approval. Many lenders also use credit scores to set interest rates of the loan applicants, with those having higher scores being offered lower rates for the loans. Thus, always fetch your credit report before making the loan application as any error or outdated information in credit report can reduce credit score and thereby, reduce loan approval chances. If you notice any error(s), report them to the concerned credit bureau(s) and the lender for rectification. A rectified credit report can lead to higher credit score and thereby, increase your loan approval chances at lower interest rates.

Not comparing loan offers

The interest rates offered to the same applicant can vary widely across lenders depending on cost of funds and credit risk assessment of the loan applicant. Some lenders also offer loans at preferential interest rates to existing customers. Thus, those planning to avail the loans should compare loan offers from as many lenders as possible.

They should begin the search by approaching banks and NBFCs with which they already have existing deposit and/or loan/credit card relationships. This should be followed by visiting online financial marketplaces to view the loan options of other lenders.

Then, an applicant should opt for the lender that charges the lowest interest rate for the desired loan amount with the optimal tenure.

Ignoring 'optimal' repayment

Lenders usually prefer loan applicants whose monthly EMI obligations, including that of the proposed loan, do not exceed 50-60% of the monthly income. However, even if it does not, the optimal loan EMI would be the one on which you incur the lowest interest cost without adversely impacting unavoidable expenses and monthly contributions for crucial financial goals. You should use online EMI calculators to fix the optimal loan EMI after factoring in income/other financial commitments.

Ignoring loan options

Just like personal loans, secured loan options like top-up home loans, loan against property (LAP), gold loans and loan against securities do not have any end-usage restrictions.

Being secured in nature, these loans usually have lower interest rates than personal loans. Top-up home loans and LAP also offer longer tenures than personal loans, which further increases EMI affordability and overall loan amount eligibility for the borrowers.

On the flip side, the turnaround time (TAT) for LAP disbursal can be much higher than that of personal loans, while gold loan and loan against securities have similar TATs.

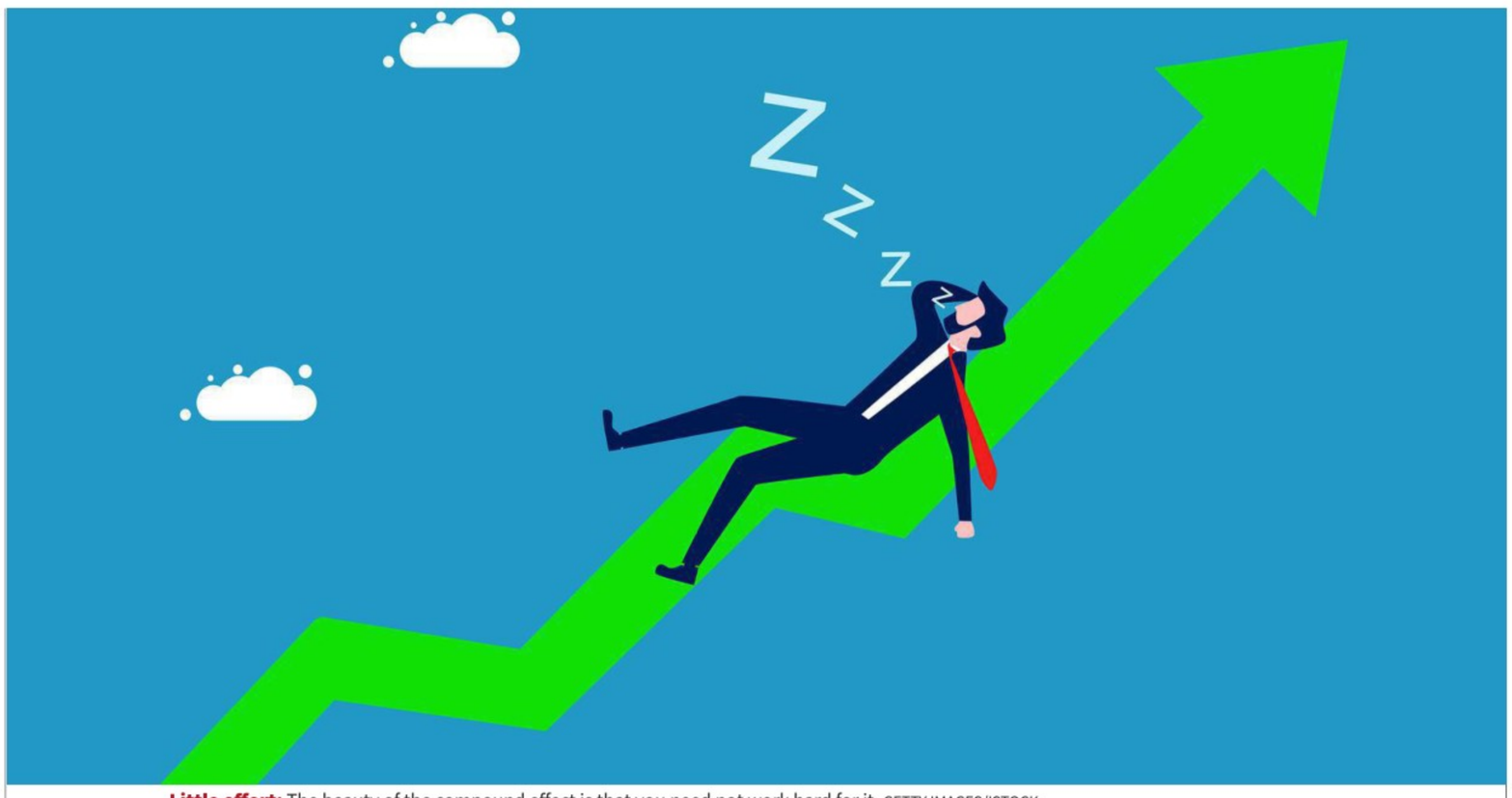
Thus, existing home loan borrowers or those having adequate gold, property or investments to pledge should explore suitable secured loan alternatives and disbursal TAT before making a personal loan application.

Ignoring emergency fund

Financial emergencies or loss of income due to job loss, disability, illness, etc. lead many borrowers to default on EMIs. Such repayment failures would not only incur hefty penalties, it also reduces one's credit score and thereby, his or her future loan/credit card eligibility. The best way to avoid such scenarios is to increase the size of your emergency fund by at least six months' worth of your personal loan EMI.

(The writer is CEO of Paisabazaar)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



Little effort: The beauty of the compound effect is that you need not work hard for it. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Money making money even while one is asleep

As Albert Einstein said, "compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world;" if one is patient enough, he can witness how his money makes money for him, even while he is sleeping

DOUBLING MONEY

Vaishali R. Venkat

> In the world of finance, there is one seed which could become an entire forest — the power of compounding; the magic of compounding is that it starts small but grows exponentially over time

> Though the phrase 'compound effect' existed for aeons, it became popular in the realm of finance, and personal development after bestselling book by author Darren Hardy

If a child pesters his father for money, his usual retort would be, "Do you think I'm out there shaking a money tree."

Yes, in a way, he is right, you can't just pluck money off a tree. But even a small penny is like a seemingly small seed, which when nurtured and nourished carefully, can be the beginning of a forest.

Power of compounding

In the world of finance, there is one such seed, which not only grows into a tree but could become an entire forest – the power of compounding. The magic of compounding is that it starts small but grows exponentially over time.

More than two centuries ago, Benjamin Franklin, the first Postmaster-General of the United States and author of the book *Poor Richard's Almanack*, echoed this concept saying, "Money makes money. "And the money that money makes, makes money."

Further, highlighting its potential of exponential wealth creation in the long run, famous physicist Albert Einstein said, "compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world."

Though the phrase "the compound effect" existed for aeons, especially in mathematics, it became quite popular in the realm of finance, productivity and personal development after a bestselling book by U.S. author Darren Hardy.

Compound effect

The compound effect is like a snowballing effect wherein a small, consistent action or an investment accumulates over a period, leading to an exponential growth. In personal finance, it refers to the process wherein your initial invested money earns interest, and the interest earned earns interest, which subsequently generates interest, and the chain goes on and on.

This way, you make a gigantic leap from your original invested amount. Not just this, the beauty of the compound effect is that you need not work hard for it, as even if you are sleeping, your invested money will silently work and keep on generating money for you.

You need to give time for it and just be patient. Consistency is the key.

Let's imagine this scenario. God wishes to give a boon and places two choices before you. First - He will clear all your debts instantly, say ₹35,00,000.

Second - He will give you ₹1 on the first day with a promise that it will double every day for one month. So, which one do you choose?

Almost all 10 people would only choose the first option for two reasons. The first being instant gratification and the second is the lack of awareness of compounding effects.

In contrast, mathematicians or financial experts will only choose the second option of taking the ₹1 that doubles every day for 30 days. They do not mind waiting for 30 days, let's find out why.

Money doubles

On day one, God gives you ₹1, it doubles to ₹2 on the second day, to ₹4 on the third day. Likewise, it doubles to ₹512 on the 10th day. Your patience is being tested here.

In a similar doubling strategy, your money becomes ₹16,384 on the 15th day. Time is the secret; time begets money.

On day 20, it would be ₹5,24,288, which is way less from the first choice. But wait, we have 10 more days. On day 24, it would have doubled to ₹83,88,608 and on the last day, it would be ₹53,68,70,912.

In just 30 days, ₹1 transforms into a whopping sum of more than ₹53 crore. You call it mind blowing but that's the power of compounding.

SIP investment

Now, let's take a real-life example. Priya invests ₹1,000 every month in a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) that gives her 12% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR).

After five years, her investment would have grown to almost ₹82,000. After 10 years, it becomes ₹2,32,000 (approximately) and after 20 years ₹9,99,000.

But wait, the magic has not happened yet. In 30 years, it becomes ₹35,29,000 and in 40 years, a whopping sum of more than a ₹1 crore.

So, just a ₹1,000 in monthly SIP transforms into more than a ₹1 crore in 40 years.

That's the reason all financial experts advise us to start saving right from the first salary, so that, by the time you retire, you would have saved enough, and your money would have worked for you even when you were sleeping.

If you need more money, just step up your SIP amount of ₹1,000 per month by just 10% every year, witness the magic and enjoy your retirement life comfortably and worry-free. Start saving early.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager)

A note on multi-asset funds

THINKINVESTOR

A multi-asset class fund could take exposure to three asset classes – equity, bonds and commodities (typically gold and silver); however, be mindful of commodities in the core portfolio

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

The number of asset management companies (AMC) have increased over the years. This makes it difficult for product differentiation in the equity space, as funds typically invest within the universe of 500 stocks comprising large-caps, mid-caps and small-caps. It is, therefore, not surprising to see AMCs creating different products to woo investors. A differentiating product in recent times has been multi-asset funds. Here, we discuss the characteristics of such funds and if they fit into your core portfolio.

Asset allocation

Asset allocation is the most important step in the investment process. It refers to the portion of savings you invest in asset classes to achieve life goals. Asset allocation can vary for each goal, even if all the goals have the same time horizon. Why? Asset allocation is a function of risk attitude- more important a goal is, less risk you want to take; that means more bonds and less equity allocation. For instance, the asset allocation for your child's education portfolio may be more conservative compared with that of your retirement portfolio.

A multi-asset class fund could take exposure to three asset classes – equity, bonds and commodities (typically gold and silver). You must be mindful of having commodities in the core portfolio, as prices are volatile driven by global demand and supply and geopolitical issues.

That apart, such a fund decides the optimal allocation to each asset class based on investment mandate. In other words, the fund's asset allocation cannot be tailored to your goals or risk attitude.

Conclusion

You must make tax-efficient investments. Are multi-asset funds tax efficient? A multi-asset fund that invests more than 65% in equity is considered an equity fund.

The point is that if you sell your fund units after holding them for more than 12 months, you must pay 12.5% long-term capital gains tax above ₹1.25 lakh in any year you realise the gains. But funds holding less than 65% in equity are considered as non-equity-oriented funds.

Capital gains arising from such funds will be added to your total income and taxed at your marginal tax regardless of the holding period. This has major implications on the post-tax returns on your investments, as the equity portion of the fund will also be taxed at your marginal tax rate (typically 30%). You must be mindful of these factors when you choose multi-asset funds.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.90-24.00	10,846-14,384	2,169-2,877	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.50 onwards	10,996 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.30-15.30	10,697-11,974	2,139-2,395	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1,000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.80 onwards	10,821 onwards	2,164 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.20	10,722-12,751	2,144-2,550	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99-22.00	10,621-13,809	2,124-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15-16.00	10,660-12,159	2,132-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.20	10,673-11,428	2,135-2,286	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	10.10-11.90	10,648-11,097	2,130-2,219	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5%

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.85-9.70	10,102 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.70	10,174 - 11,047	Up to Rs. 2,000
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	0.25% of loan (max. up to Rs. 15,000)
Bank of India	8.00-12.15	10,138 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.00	10,043 - 10,624	0.50% (Rs 5,000)
State Bank of India	8.90-9.95	10,355 - 10,611	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.40-9.20	10,234 - 10,428	Rs 2,500
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.16-11.64	10,418 - 11,031	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2500 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.40 onwards	10,722 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	0.50% of loan amount (Rs. 2,000 - Rs.20,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing home loan borrowers and other existing customers having at least 6 months of relationship with the bank.
**Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on July 16

Source: Paisabazaar.com

TEHRAN

Fire at Iran's largest oil refinery kills one in the country's southwest

AP

A fire at Iran's oldest and largest refinery in the southwest killed one person, state media reported on Sunday. A leaky pump in an under-repair unit at Abadan refinery caused the fire on Saturday, killing a worker. Firefighters put out the blaze in two hours and operations remained unaffected, the report stated. AP

ISLAMABAD

Ten more killed in Pakistan in rain havoc; death toll crosses 200

AFP

The death toll in Pakistan due to monsoon rain crossed 200 on Sunday as another 10 persons have been killed, according to the country's chief disaster control body. The seasonal downpour began on June 26 when the first spell of monsoon rain was recorded, triggering flash floods in the northwest of the country. PTI

WASHINGTON

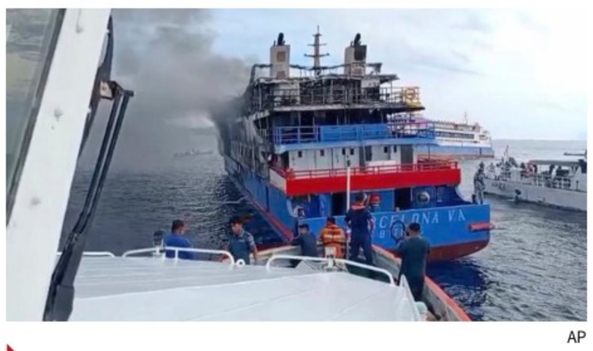
Trump, Xi likely to meet during October APEC summit in S. Korea

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump might visit China before going to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit between October 30 and November 1, or he could meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC event in South Korea, a media report stated on Sunday citing multiple sources. REUTERS

MANADO

At least five killed as Indonesian passenger ferry catches fire at sea



AP

A passenger ferry carrying hundreds of people caught fire at sea on Sunday off Sulawesi island in Indonesia, killing at least five persons, officials said. More than 280 people were rescued and evacuation efforts were ongoing. There were no immediate reports of injuries, and no exact figures of passengers and crew members onboard. AP

Israel orders evacuations in central Gaza as talks stall

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

The Israeli military published new evacuation warnings for areas of central Gaza on Sunday, in one of the few areas where the military has rarely operated with ground troops. The evacuation cuts access between the city of Deir al-Balah and the southern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis in the narrow enclave.

The move comes as Israel and Hamas have been holding truce talks in Qatar, but mediators say there have been no breakthroughs. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stressed that expanding military operations in Gaza will pressure Hamas for talks, but negotiations have been stalled.

Israeli strikes kill 85 trying to reach aid sites across Gaza

Largest toll recorded in northern Gaza where 79 were killed and 150 injured trying to access aid; UN official says Israeli forces opened fire toward crowds who tried to take food from a convoy

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

At least 85 Palestinians were killed while trying to reach food at locations across Gaza on Sunday, the territory's Health Ministry said, on the deadliest day yet for aid-seekers in over 21 months of war.

The largest death toll was in devastated northern Gaza, where living conditions are especially dire. At least 79 Palestinians were killed while trying to reach aid entering through the Zikim crossing with Israel, Zaher al-Waheidi, head of the Health Ministry's records department, said. The UN World Food Program said 25 trucks with aid had entered for "starving communities" when it encountered massive crowds.

Little result: A nun, children, and young altar servers attend a morning mass at a church in Gaza City on Sunday. AFP

A UN official said Israeli forces opened fire toward crowds who tried to take food from the convoy. Footage taken by the UN showed Palestinian men running as automatic gunfire was heard.

More than 150 people were wounded, some in critical condition, hospitals said.

Mr. Al-Waheidi said another six Palestinians were killed in the Shakoush area, hundreds of metres north of a hub of the recently created Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a U.S.- and Israel-backed group, in the southern city of Rafah.

Separately, seven Palestinians were killed while sheltering in tents in Khan Younis in the south, including a five-year-old boy, according to the Kuwait Specialized Field Hospital, which received the casualties.

Truce holds in south Syria as week-long clashes kill 1,000

Agence France-Presse
SWEIDA

Security forces stand guard at a checkpoint to prevent Bedouin fighters from advancing towards Sweida on Sunday. REUTERS

Calm returned to southern Syria's Sweida province on Sunday, after a week of sectarian violence between Druze fighters and rival groups that killed more than 1,000 people.

A ceasefire announced on Saturday appeared to be holding after earlier agreements failed to end fighting between longtime rivals the Druze and the Bedouin that spiralled to draw in the Islamist-led government, the Israeli military and armed tribes from other parts of Syria.

No clashes

Witnesses on the outskirts of Sweida city reported hearing no clashes on Sunday morning, with government forces deployed in some locations in the province to enforce the truce and at least one humanitarian convoy headed for the Druze-majority city.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that since around midnight, "Sweida has been experiencing a cautious calm", adding government security forces had blocked roads leading to the province in order to prevent tribal fighters from going there.

The Britain-based Observatory gave an updated toll on Sunday of more than 1,000 killed since the violence erupted a week ago, including 336 Druze fighters and 298 civilians from the minority group, as well as 342 government security personnel and 21 Sunni Bedouin.

Exit polls predict drubbing for Japan PM in Upper House

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's coalition lost its Upper House majority in elections on Sunday, local media projected, in a debacle that could end his short premiership.

Mr. Ishiba's governing coalition was already humiliatingly forced into a minority government after Lower House elections in October, shortly after he became Prime Minister and called the snap vote.

Mr. Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its partner Komeito won around 41 of the 125 Upper House seats contested on Sunday, short of the 50 needed to retain a majority, Nippon TV and TBS projected. National broadcaster NHK projected that

Shigeru Ishiba

the LDP could win anything between 27 and 41 seats and Komeito between five and 12, making retaining a majority "difficult".

The right-wing populist party Sanseito was meanwhile projected to have made strong gains, winning between 10 and 22 seats, adding to the two it already holds in the 248-seat chamber.

Putin meets adviser to Iran's Khamenei for nuclear talks

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Britain, France, Germany to hold new discussions with Iran on its nuclear programme

Russian President Vladimir Putin held a surprise meeting with Ali Larijani, top adviser to Iran's supreme leader on nuclear issues, to discuss Tehran's nuclear programme in the Kremlin on Sunday.

Moscow has a cordial relationship with Iran's clerical leadership and provides crucial backing for Tehran but did not swing forcefully behind its partner even after the U.S. joined Israel's massive bombing campaign on Iran in June.

Mr. Larijani "conveyed assessments of the escalating situation in the Middle East [West Asia] and around the Iranian nuclear programme", Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Mr. Putin had expressed Russia's "well-known positions on how to stabilise the situation in the region and on the political settlement of the Iranian nuclear programme", he added.

Separately, a German diplomatic source said on Sunday that Britain, France and Germany are planning to hold talks with Iran on its nuclear programme in the coming days. Iran's Tasnim news agency also reported that Tehran had agreed to hold talks with the three European countries.

'Russia is open to peace with Ukraine but achieving goals remains priority'

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russia is open to peace with Ukraine but achieving its goals remains a priority, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Sunday, days after U.S. President Donald Trump gave Moscow a 50-day deadline to agree to a ceasefire or face tougher sanctions.

Mr. Peskov and other Russian officials have repeatedly rejected accusations from Kyiv and its Western partners of stalling peace talks.

Consecutive attacks: A rescuer walks at the site of a Russian drone strike in Dnipro in Ukraine earlier last week. REUTERS

"President (Vladimir) Putin has repeatedly spoken of his desire to bring the Ukrainian settlement to a peaceful conclusion as soon as possible. This is a long process, it requires effort, and it is not easy," Mr. Peskov told state TV reporter Pavel Zarubin. "The main thing for us is to achieve our goals. Our goals are clear," he added.

The Kremlin has insisted that any peace deal should see Ukraine withdraw from the four regions that Russia illegally annexed in September 2022, but never fully captured.

It also wants Ukraine to renounce its bid to join NATO and accept strict limits on its armed forces – demands Kyiv and its Western allies have rejected.

Latest gains

Meanwhile, Russian forces have taken control of the village of Bila Hora in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

AGE 5-12 YEARS

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM
THE HINDU Young world

THE HINDU GROUP

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HIGH REGARD

Anderson feels out of place sharing trophy name with Tendulkar

FILE PHOTO

England pace legend James Anderson confessed that seeing his name alongside the iconic Sachin Tendulkar on a trophy feels "completely out of place". "I feel completely out of place when I see myself alongside him with the trophy. I hold him in such high regard," Anderson said.

FIGHTING HARD

Rew, Ekansh prop up England u-19 on first day of second Youth Test

FILE PHOTO

Fifties by captain Thomas Rew, in pic, and Ekansh Singh lifted England under-19 to 229 for seven on a rain-hit opening day of the second Youth Test against the Indian colts at Chelmsford on Sunday. **The scores:** England u-19 229/7 in 62 overs (Thomas Rew 59, Ekansh Singh 66 batting) vs India u-19. **Toss:** India u-19.

LOW-SCORING AFFAIR

Bangladesh gets the better of Pakistan in the first T20I

AFP

Host Bangladesh defeated Pakistan by seven wickets in the first T20I at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on Sunday. **The scores:** Pakistan 110 in 19.3 overs (Fakhar 44, Taskin 3/22, Mustafizur 2/6) lost to Bangladesh 112/3 in 15.3 overs (Emon 56 n.o., Hridoy 36, Mirza 2/23); **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Emon.

UP THE HILL

Tim Wellens wins stage 15 while Pogacar retains the lead

AP

Tim Wellens, *in pic,* won a baking and hilly stage 15 of the Tour de France at the walled citadel of Carcassonne on Sunday as his UAE teammate Tadej Pogacar retained the overall lead. Wellens also won stages on the Giro d'Italia and the Vuelta a Espana, while this was a fifth stage win for Team UAE, Pogacar having already won four.

Pacer Kamboj added as cover to India squad

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Fast bowler Anshul Kamboj has been added to India's squad ahead of the fourth Test against England as a cover for Arshdeep Singh, who suffered a cut in his bowling hand during a training session in Beckenham earlier this week.

With Arshdeep unlikely to recover in time for the Manchester Test, which begins on Wednesday, the national selection committee has decided to add the young fast bowler from Haryana as a back-up option for the remainder of the series.

After a successful domestic season, where he claimed 79 wickets in 24 games for Haryana, Kamboj had a fruitful stint with India-A during its two three-day match series against England Lions. As he claimed five wickets in two games, the selectors were impressed with his performance.

With Arshdeep likely to take another 10 days to recover and Akash Deep picking up a groin niggle, it would be interesting to see if Kamboj, who linked up with the squad on Sunday, is eventually drafted into India's playing XI.

It remains to be seen whether Kamboj will be drafted into India's playing XI.
FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Nitish suffers injury

Meanwhile, Nitish Kumar Reddy is in danger of being ruled out of the remainder of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy after picking up a knee injury while training at the gym.

The Hindu understands that the all-rounder underwent scans, which revealed ligament damage, and the BCCI medical team is currently monitoring the situation before making a decision about his future. Nitish skipped the team's visit to Manchester United FC, and also could not be spotted in the closed-door optional practice session.

India now finds itself in a spot of bother ahead of the crucial Test, and the availability of Jasprit Bumrah becomes even more critical. Among the pacers, Mohammed Siraj is the only one to have played all three Tests in this series and has bowled the most overs for the tourists. With still a couple of matches to go, the team management needs to manage Siraj's workload carefully.

Long wait could be over for Jurel at Old Trafford

First-choice wicketkeeper Pant, who is nursing a finger injury, may feature as a specialist batter in the fourth Test; he will be monitored over the next couple of days before taking a call

Shayan Acharya
MANCHESTER

Dhruv Jurel isn't quite expressive. He is calm, though not often quiet. He comes with a positive mindset, and is always ready to put in the hard yards.

The son of an army man, he focuses on 'process' and 'discipline'. Those two words, he believes, have helped him grow as a cricketer. In a competitive environment, where opportunity doesn't come easy, long waits may often make or break careers, and for Jurel, it has been a long eight-month wait since his last Test outing in Perth last November.

But the 24-year-old has taken it in his stride.

Ever since landing in England a couple of months ago, Jurel featured in just two games for India-A, where he scored 227 runs in four innings and claimed seven catches. But in the senior team, Jurel has been under the shadow of Rishabh Pant, the team's vice-captain and the first-choice wicketkeeper-batter.

While Pant featured in all three Tests in the series so far, Jurel worked closely with fielding coach T. Dilip and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak over the last several weeks to make sure he remains fit and in the groove.

When India had a long session at Beckenham earlier this week, Jurel was among the first few batters to have a long session in the nets. As bowling coach Morne Morkel aimed at Jurel's stumps to test his outside edge, the youngster remained unperturbed and looked confident throughout.

Tough going: Jurel conceded 25 byes in the second innings of the Lord's Test. AFP

And as India gears up for the must-win fourth Test at Old Trafford, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate indicated that if Pant, who hurt his left index finger during the Lord's Test, isn't ready to keep the wickets, India could look at Jurel.

In that case, Pant could be used as a specialist batter. Jurel, being a steady middle-order batter, could also add depth to the batting department.

However, if both Jurel and Pant end up playing together, it would be a selection headache for the team management. But sources indicated that Pant will be monitored over the next couple of days before taking a call.

"We don't want to go through that again where we have to replace the keeper halfway through in the innings. We are just trying to give (Pant's finger) as long as possible (to heal), and hopefully he's good to go in Manchester in the first training session," Doeschate said, adding: "Jurel is in the equation."

In the previous Test, Jurel came in as Pant's substitute after the latter hurt his finger, and ended up conceding 25 byes in the second innings, as India went down by 22 runs to concede a 1-2 lead in the five-match series.

But it's not just Jurel, several wicket-keepers have struggled in England where the ball wobbles a lot once it goes past the batter.

Despite earning praise from the cricketing fraternity, it has still been a long wait for Jurel. But now, with the series on the line and the team management not willing to risk Pant, he could just get lucky.

'Umpires should ensure there are no unnecessary breaks'

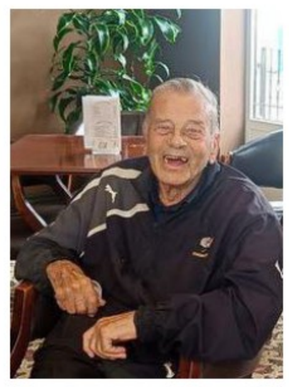
Shayan Acharya
DODWORTH (YORKSHIRE)

Slow over-rates and frequent ball changes have been the major talking points of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy so far. Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja also drew flak for allegedly ignoring the umpire's message to get on with the game when he was having a drink between overs during the third Test at Lord's.

As several former cricketers, including former England captain Michael Atherton, criticised the umpires for losing their grip on the game, legendary umpire Dickie Bird believes that it's important for the match officials to be strong and ensure that they have the last word on the field.

"The spectators pay a lot of money to watch Test matches nowadays. Too many stoppages is not good for Test cricket as it loses interest and that's where the umpires need to be strong and tell the players that they should get going and such stoppages won't be tolerated," Bird told *The Hindu*.

The 92-year-old, who has followed the series closely, believes the DRS has diminished the authority of the umpires slightly. "Now, I see they are changing the ball every now and then, and that automatically slows down the game, but the umpires should make sure that they don't allow unnecessary breaks as it kills the buzz," he said.



Bird officiated in 66 Tests and 69 ODIs. SHAYAN ACHARYA

"In my time, I would jokingly tell the players, 'come on, lads, get on with the game, let's not kill the (charm) of the game.' We would have a good laugh and I ensured that we were back in action as quickly as possible," Bird, who officiated in 66 Tests and 69 ODIs, said, adding: "My era also had some great characters, but we still got going without (much trouble)."

SNAPSHOTS

England remains destination for WTC finals

SINGAPORE: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday awarded the hosting rights for the next three editions of World Test Championship finals to England.

The global body made the decision at its annual conference which concluded here Sunday.

The three WTC finals scheduled in 2027, 2029 and 2031 after completion of two year cycles will in all likelihood be held in June, which is the time for the cricket season in England.

"We are absolutely delighted that England and Wales has been chosen to host the next three ICC World Test Championship Finals," Richard Gould, ECB CEO, said.

The ICC also welcomed two new members in Timor Leste Cricket Federation and Zambia Cricket Union which were included as Associate Members, taking the ICC's total membership to 110.

Among other decisions, USA Cricket has been given three additional months to undertake comprehensive governance reforms, including but not limited to completing free and fair elections within the period.

Indo-Pak World Championship of Legends match called off

BIRMINGHAM: A veterans' cricket match involving India and Pakistan in the World Championship of Legends here on Sunday was cancelled after the Indian players, including Shikhar Dhawan, refused to be a part of it citing the Pahalgam terror attack in April.

The second edition of the tournament started on June 18 at Edgbaston and is scheduled for an August 2 final.

World Cup winner Yuvraj Singh is the captain of the India legends, while the squad also features the likes of Harbhajan Singh, Irfan Pathan, Suresh Raina, Robin Uthappa and Varun Aaron among others.

The WCL organisers shared a statement on their X account, detailing the decision of cancellation and said their intention while conducting the match was to recreate some "happy memories."

The organisers also apologised for "unintentionally causing discomfort" to the Indian legends.

Dominant Scheffler puts his name on the Claret Jug

BRITISH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PORTRUSH

Scottie Scheffler romped to a magnificent four-shot victory to seal his first British Open title at Royal Portrush on Sunday, notching his fourth Major success.

The World No. 1 eased to a three-under par final round of 68, finishing on 17-under for the tournament after shooting in the 60s on all four days.

It was the 10th successive time he has converted a 54-hole lead into a win.

The American's dominance over the past two years has been such that once he birdied the first hole, it seemed as though the chasing pack had already lost any belief of challenging.

Scheffler extended his run of successive top-10 finishes to 11 events.

That streak now includes the PGA Championship and British Open titles.

Unstoppable: Scheffler completed the third leg of a possible career Grand Slam. AP

The American became the second World No. 1 to lift the Claret Jug after Tiger Woods, completing the third leg of a possible career Grand Slam.

Harris English finished second, ending on a 13-under courtesy of a closing round of 66.

CHESS ROUND-UP

Humpy scripts history

BATUMI: Koneru Humpy created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to reach the FIDE Women's World Cup semifinals on Sunday.

India No. 1 Humpy, with her black pieces, drew the second classical game against China's Yuxin Song to take the contest with a 1.5-0.5 scoreline.

Humpy will next face top-seeded Chinese Lei Tingjie in the semifinal.

R. Vaishali lost her second classical game to China's Tan Zhongyi, resulting in her exit from the tournament as Tan won the contest 1.5-0.5.

The all-Indian last-eight clash between Harika and Divya Deshmukh will be decided in the tiebreaker on Monday after the duo's second classical game also ended in a draw. The winner of that contest will take on Tan in the semifinals.

Next move: Humpy drew the second classical game against Song and will face top-seeded Tingjie in the semifinal.

Carlsen to fight for third place

LAS VEGAS: World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen defeated Arjun Erigaisi 2-0 and R. Praggnanandhaa 3-1 in the Freestyle chess Grand Slam. With Hans Moke Niemann taking on his American counterpart Levon Aronian in the final, Carlsen set up a clash with World No. 2 American Hikaru Nakamura for the third place in the $7,50,000 prize money event.

Praggnanadhaa started off with another victory against the world's best in the first game of their mini-match. The Norwegian struck back in the return game and won the next set of games to find himself back in the event.

In his next match, Arjun enjoyed some opening advantage in the first game but could not hold it together while in the second Carlsen proved superior again.

In the other matches slated on the final day, Arjun will meet Fabiano Caruana of United States for the fifth-place play-off while Praggnanandhaa will have to fight for seventh place against another American Wesley So.

The results:

Match 1: Magnus Carlsen bt R. Praggnanandhaa 3-1; Hikaru Nakamura bt Wesley So 1.5-0.5.

Match 2: Arjun Erigaisi lost to Carlsen 0-2; Nakamura bt Fabiano Caruana 3-1.

INBRIEF

Marc Marquez cruises to Czech MotoGP win

Marc Marquez won the Czech MotoGP on Sunday for his eighth victory in 12 races this season and fifth in a row, extending his commanding lead in the world championship. The factory Ducati rider beat Marco Bezzecchi on an Aprilia by almost two seconds, while Pedro Acosta on a KTM finished third.

Hermann's 63 places SA in final of the T20I tri-series

A maiden international half-century by Rubin Hermann took South Africa to a seven-wicket win over Zimbabwe in their T20I tri-series match at Harare Sports Club on Sunday. The left-handed Hermann hit 63 off 36 balls. South Africa and unbeaten New Zealand will meet in the final.

The scores: Zimbabwe 144/6 in 20 overs (Brian Bennett 61, Ryan Burl 36 n.o.; Corbin Bosch 2/16) vs South Africa 145/3 in 17.2 overs (Rubin Hermann 63, Rassie van der Dussen 52 n.o.; Tinotenda Maposa 2/38).

Dhakshineswar wins doubles title in Louisville

Dhakshineswar Suresh and Nicolas Kotzen beat Sekou Bangoura and Benjamin Kittay 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles final of the $30,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Louisville, USA. It was the second doubles title of the season for the 25-year-old Dhakshineswar following the one in Indore in partnership with Parikshit Somani. The Indo-American pair dropped only 17 games in all in four rounds, and not more than five games to any opponent.

Other results: Semifinals: Nicolas & Dhakshineswar bt Jack Anthrop & Preston Stearns (USA) 6-3, 6-2.

Indian juniors beat Hong Kong, top group

India continued its winning run, defeating Hong Kong 110-100 to top Group D at the Badminton Asia junior mixed team championships at Solo, Indonesia, on Sunday. India will take on Japan in the quarterfinals on Monday. Both teams had already secured their spots in the knock-out stage before the face-off.

Railways too good for Indian Navy, completes a hat-trick of titles in style

The champion team comes up with a lesson in spotting the weakness of the opponent, working out a plan and executing it to a T in the final

MURUGAPPA GOLD CUP

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Defending champion Indian Railways subdued a youthful Indian Navy 3-1 in the final of the 96th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Sunday and completed a hat-trick of titles.

After a sedate start in the pool matches, Railways peaked when it mattered most: in the knockouts.

It was a lesson in spotting the weakness of the opponent and working out a plan and executing it to a T.

Reigning supreme: Indian Railways raised its game in the knockout phase to come up trumps.
B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Realising that the Navy players are excellent in deflections through long and short passes from the 25-yard, dotted lines and the striking circle, Railways seldom allowed the rival strikers any leeway to unleash their shots. Such was the effectiveness of the Railways defence.

In all the four quarters, Railways held the upper hand, negating Navy's counter-attacks with ease.

Eight minutes into the contest, Railways scored through Shivam Anand who scooped one to the roof of the net after receiving the pass from Gursahibjit Singh from the left. It could have been 2-0 for Railways towards the end of first quarter if not for Zameer, being the last man standing behind 'keeper Sanjay Bhaskar, blocking a shot by Sayyad Niyaz Rahim.

Within minutes, Navy equalised through Aakib Rahim Arif who slotted it home from the top of the circle.

Thereafter, it was Railways' show all the way. Pankaj Rawat converted a copy-book penalty corner shot in the third quarter and Niyaz Rahim's fierce hit from the circle in the 57th minute made it beyond the reach of Navy.

Sunil Kumar Singh, who was the head coach of Railways for three straight time, was ecstatic. "It's a huge achievement for us to have a hat-trick in such a big tournament. We improved after each match. We knew the opponent will be depending on the slap shot. We only had to make sure we block it once they enter the 25-yard," said Sunil.

Railways received Rs. 7 lakh while Navy had to be content with Rs. 5 lakh.

M. M. Murugappan, chairman, CUMI and Chola MS, gave away the prizes.

The result (final): Indian Railways 3 (Shivam Anand 8, Pankaj Rawat 37, Sayyad Niyaz Rahim 57) bt Navy 1 (Aakib Rahim Arif 15).

Sreeshankar wins long jump title in Portugal

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Long jumper M. Sreeshankar clinched the title with a leap of 7.75m at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in Maia, Portugal, a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze-level meet.

The Asian Games silver medallist registered his best effort in the second round on Saturday night.

Sreeshankar opened with a 7.63m jump, followed it up with his winning leap of 7.75m in the second round, and then recorded a solid 7.69m. His third attempt was a foul, while his final two jumps were measured at 6.12m and 7.58m.

All smiles: Sreeshankar celebrates after his winning effort.
X@MEDIA_SAI

Poland's Piotr Tarkowski matched Sreeshankar's 7.75m effort but his second best jump – 7.58m – was less than the Indian's 7.69m.

According to the World Athletics rules if two competitors tie, their second longest legal jump is used as a tie-breaker.

The meet marks the 26-year-old's second outing since returning from a long injury layoff following knee surgery. He had announced his comeback with a solid 8.05m win at the Indian Open Athletics Meet earlier this month.

Sreeshankar will be aiming to qualify for the World Championships in Tokyo in September for which the direct qualifying distance is 8.27m.

Ishaan and Arjun steal the limelight in MRF F2000

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Ishaan Madesh and Arjun Chheda, two 16-year-olds stole the spotlight in the MRF Formula 2000 category, each clinching a race win as the first round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2025 concluded at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Sunday. Chheda completed a double, having won Race 1 on Saturday and returning to the podium again.

In the MRF Formula 1600 class, Arjun Nair and Nigel Abraham Thomas emerged victorious in one race apiece in the class.

In the Indian Touring Cars (ITC) category, defending champion Biren Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing) pulled off a dramatic win in Race-3, denying former national champion Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) a triple crown. Balu, who was leading the race, suffered a misfire in his car, allowing Pithawalla, despite a turbo issue in his VW Polo, to seize the opportunity and charge towards victory.

Podium finish: MRF F2000 Race-2 winner Ishan, centre, flanked by second-placed Arjun, left, and Akhil. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (Provisional – all 14 laps unless mentioned otherwise): MRF F2000: Race-2: 1. Ishaan Madesh 15:41.539s; 2. Arjun Chheda 15:43.950; 3. Akhil Agarwal 15:52.431.
Race-3 (12 laps): 1. Arjun 13:24.051s; 2. Ishaan 13:26.776s; 3. Akhil Agarwal 13:39.242s.
MRF F1600: Race-2: 1. Nigel 16:52.562s; 2. Sai Shiva Makesh Sankaran 16:55.351s; 3. Zahan Commissariat 17:07.254s.
Race-3 (12 laps): 1. Arjun Nair 14:21.433s; 2. Sankaran 14:21.938s; 3. Nigel 14:22.159s.
Indian Touring Cars: Race-2: 1. Arjun Balu 17:36.755s; 2. Biren 17:54.495s; 3. Dhruv Chavan (Buzzing Hornet) 18:00.579s.
ITC1625: 1. Suprej Venkat 18:44.318s; 2. D. Vidyaprakash 18:45.078s.
Race-3 (12 laps): 1. Biren 15:03.891s; 2. Arjun Balu 15:15.873s; 3. Dhruv 15:32.586s.
ITC1625: 1. D. Vidyaparakash 16:03.234s; Suprej 16:06.154s.
Indian Junior Touring Cars: Race-2: 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) 18:48.451s; 2. Nikunj Vagh (Team N1) 17:41.724s+1 lap; 3. Yug Italiya (Team N1) 17:41.755s+1 lap.
Race-3 (12 laps): 1. Rithvik 16:10.084s; 2. Yug 16:20.009s; 3. Nikhunj 16:20.678s.
Super Stock: Race-2, 13 laps: 1. Krishanu Dutta Bhuyan (Zion Racing) 18:36.365s; 2. Kesara Godage (Redline Racing) 18:38.743s; 3. Manan Patel (Gameover Motorsports) 18:39.184s.
Race-3 (11 laps): 1. Kesar (Redline Racing India) 15:41.190s; 2. Krishanu 15:44.604s; 3. Anirudha Arvind (Strada Motorsports) 15:46.728s.
Formula LGB 1300 Open: Race-2: 1. Bhuvan Bonu (MSPORT) 21:02.762s; 2. Bala Prasath (DTS Racing) 21:08.968s; 3. Neythan McPherson (Momentum Motorsports) 21:10.171s.
Junior: 1. Bhuvan 21:02.762s; 2. Neythan 21:10.171s; 3. Aditya Patnaik (Momentum Motorsports) 21:12.492s.
Volkswagen Polo Cup: Race-2: 1. Aditya Patnaik (Buzzing Hornet) 18:15.689s; 2. Pratik Sonawane (Buzzing Hornet) 18:18.037s; 3. Ojas Surve (Buzzing Hornet) 18:18.904s.
Race-3 (12 laps): 1. Aman Nagdev (Buzzing Hornet) 15:31.208s; 2. Aditya 15:39.615s; 3. Pratik 15:43.667s.

SNAPSHOTS

India wins badminton mixed bronze

BERLIN: India opened its medal account in the World University Games (WUG) through the shuttlers, who were assured of a mixed team bronze after losing to Chinese Taipei 3-1 in the semifinals, while swimmer Srihari Nataraj continued his record-breaking spree in the pool on Sunday.

The Indian mixed team comprised Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, Devika Sihag, Saneeth Dayanand, Tasnim Mir, Varshini Viswanath Sri and Vaishnavi Khadkekar.

Swimmer Srihari clocked 49.46 to break Veerdhawal Khade's 17-year-old best Indian time for 100m freestyle and qualify for the semifinals.

Srihari reduced Khade's record, set in the Commonwealth Youth Games at Pune, by 0.01 second in the heats. The 24-year-old also made it to the 50m backstroke semifinals with a time of 25.59 in the heats.

The best Indian time (25.11) in this event also belongs to Srihari.

Priya wins silver, Manisha bronze

BUDAPEST: Priya Malik picked up a silver medal after being beaten 4-3 by Brazil's Pan-American silver medallist Thamires Machado in the women's 76kg final at the Ranking Series wrestling event here.

The 20-year-old Indian, performed well to upset 2016 Olympics bronze medallist Elmira Syzdykova of Kazakhstan 7-2 and World under-23 bronze medallist Valeriia Trifonova 11-1 to book a place in the final.

Asian champion Manisha Bhanwala (62kg) bagged a bronze medal.

India topped the women's team ranking with two gold, two silver and two bronze.

Usyk is undisputed world heavyweight champion

Oleksandr Usyk beat Daniel Dubois to become the undisputed heavyweight world champion with a fifth-round knockout at London's Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

Golden Thunder claims the Bangalore St. Leger

RACING

BENGALURU: Karthik G-trained Golden Thunder (Antony up) won the Bangalore St. Leger (2,800m), the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (July 20). The winner is owned by M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP rep. by Mr. Arun Alagappan.

THE RESULTS

AZHAR PLATE (1,400M): WINFIELD (Antony) 1, Isabelle (Pavan) 2, LG's Star (G. Vivek) 3 and Small Dreams (Dhanu S) 4. 2, 4 and 7-3/4. 1m, 28.96s. ₹41 (w), 15, 23 and 20 (p), SHP: 83, THP: 65, FP: 573, Q: 204, Trinella: 2,766/928, Exacta: 13,830/5,927. Favourite: Continues.

Owners: Mr. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria & Mr. Haider Soomar. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

Note: This race was postponed from Saturday.

1. FLIRTING VISION PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100M): MOST AND MORE (Darshan) 1, Mehra (G. Vivek) 2, Pursuit Of Wealth (Sai Kiran) 3 and Honest Desire (Aleemuddin) 4. 3, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m, 10.31s. ₹126 (w), 28, 19 and 10 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 59, FP: 838, Q: 484, Trinella: 1,222/349, Exacta: 10,054/10,054. Favourite: Pursuit Of Wealth.

Owners: Mr. Anil Saraf, Mr. Balam Mohla, Mr. Manjunath M, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: S. Narredu.

2. MAMMA'S MINK PLATE (1,200M): BEAUTY STAR (Sai Kiran) 1, Mutual Trust (Trevor) 2, Cashable (Suraj) 3 and My Honey (L.A. Rozario) 4. Hd, 2-3/4 and 6-1/4. 1m, 15.41s. ₹50 (w), 16, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 44, FP: 167, Q: 71, Trinella: 581/280, Exacta: 5,262/2,082. Favourite: Annabelle.

Owner: Mr. S.T. Kalappa. Trainer: Warren Singh.

3. FLIRTING VISION PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100M): ETERNAL GLORY (G. Vivek) 1, Priceless Prince (Siddaraju P) 2, Blind Faith (Suraj) 3 and Flash (Bhawani S) 4. 2, 4-1/4 and Lnk. 1m, 11.21s. ₹25 (w), 12, 25 and 13 (p), SHP: 82, THP: 48, FP: 403, Q: 229, Trinella: 517/129, Exacta: 1,624/870. Favourite: Blind Faith.

Owner: Mr. K.N. Ramaraju. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

4. RAJA OF BOBBILI MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): ARMORY (Angad) 1, Prime Abbess (Neeraj) 2, THe Strikingly (Sai Kiran) 3 and Golden Time (Koshi K) 4. 2-3/4, 5 and 4-1/2. 1m, 31.01s. ₹25 (w), 13, 12 and 31 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 61, FP: 122, Q: 77, Trinella: 771/734, Exacta: 3,372/1,324. Favourite: Lady Invictus.

Owner: Mr. Reethan B.K. Trainer: Narayana Gowda V.

5. BANGALORE ST. LEGER (2,800M): GOLDEN THUNDER (Antony) 1, DYF (Trevor) 2, Truth (G. Vivek) 3 and Ranquelino (Sandesh) 4. 4-3/4, 8 and 1. 3m, 11.22s. ₹104 (w), 29 and 11 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 24, FP: 280, Q: 103, Trinella: 755/345, Exacta: 1,565/439. Favourite: DYF.

Owner: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP rep. by Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Karthik G.

6. ABOLINE PLATE (1,200M): SUPER KIND (Trevor) 1, Agera (G. Vivek) 2, Infinite Spirit (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Princess Jasmine (Suhan K) 4. Nk, 10-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 19.29s. ₹27 (w), 13, 22 and 65 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 116, FP: 102, Q: 46, Trinella: 1,392/949, Exacta: 16,399/5,271. Favourite: Super Kind.

Owner: Mr. N. Praveen Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

Jackpot: ₹45,096 (13 tkts.).

Runner-up: 4,187 (60 tkts.).

Treble (i): 1,483 (seven tkts.); (ii): 2,072 (19 tkts.).

Mikimoto for first division of Osman Sagar Cup

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old filly Mikimoto should score over her rivals in the Osman Sagar Cup (Div. I), the chief event of the opening day's races of the Hyderabad monsoon season at the Malakpet race course here on July 21 (Monday). There will be no false rails.

1 CON AMORE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1 p.m.: 1. Cypress (4) Kuldeep (Sr) 56, 2. American Affair (5) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 3. Bestie (1) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 4. Certanity (8) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 5. Dance Of Fury (9) Surya Prakash 54.5, 6. Dashing Charm (3) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 7. Konaseema (6) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 8. Moonlite Rose (2) Afroz K 54.5 and 9. Screenshot (7) G. Naresh 54.5.

1. DASHING CHARM, 2. KONASEEMA, 3. CYPRESS

2 OSMAN SAGAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 1.30: 1. Reigning Beauty (2) Shivansh 61.5, 2. Encore (6) R.S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Imperia (8) P. Ajeeth K 59, 4. Darling's Boy (1) Afroz K 58, 5. Espionage (5) Santosh Raj 57, 6. Strauss (7) Mukesh K 56, 7. Calistoga (4) Vivek G 55.5, 8. Golden Gazelle (3) H.M. Akshay 55, 9. Kingston (9) Md. Ekram 53.5 and 10. Born Brave (10) Varun 51.

1. CALISTOGA, 2. ENCORE, 3. IMPERIA

3 CON AMORE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.00: 1. La Quinta (3) Likith Appu 56, 2. Red Hot Punch (7) P. Ajeeth K 56, 3. Catch The Worm (9) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 4. Feel The Magic (8) B. Nikhil 54.5, 5. Foxy Girl (1) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 6. Gusto's Baby (6) Afroz K 54.5, 7. N R I High Power (2) Varun 54.5, 8. Nyanaza (5) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 9. Silver Screen (4) Nakhat Singh 54.5.

1. CATCH THE WORM, 2. GUSTO'S BABY, 3. N R I HIGHPOWER

4 ADILABAD PLATE (1,100m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.35: 1. Noble Heart (5) H.M. Akshay 60, 2. Anemoi (9) Surya Prakash 58.5, 3. Divine Destiny (8) Kuldeep Jr. 58.5, 4. Brilliant Lad (1) P. Sai K 57.5, 5. Dubai Touch (12) S. Shareef 57.5, 6. Pacific Heights (16) Vivek G 57.5, 7. Double Bubble (6) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 8. Only The Brave (15) Md. Ismail 57, 9. Zuza (4) Ashad Asbar 57, 10. Lights On (2) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 11. American Flame (11) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 12. Classy Dame (3) Abhay Singh 54.5, 13. Glimmer Of Hope (7) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 14. Perception (10) G. Naresh 54, 15. Cherish The Lady (13) Ajay K 51.5 and 16. Sunny Day (14) P. Ajeeth K 51.

1. DUBAI TOUCH, 2. PACIFIC HEIGHTS, 3. CHERISH THE LADY

5 WWW. HYDRACES.COM CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.10: 1. Rival (7) Ajay K 60, 2. N R I Sport (12) Varun 59.5, 3. High Heels (5) Gaurav Singh 57.5, 4. Crimson Rose (1) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 5. Diablo (11) P. Sai K 55, 6. Tiger Ruby (8) Surya Prakash 54, 7. Glorious Power (9) Likith Appu 53.5, 8. Juramento (2) Santosh Raj 52, 9. Sweet Dancer (3) Kuldeep Jr. 52, 10. Lazarus (4) H.M. Akshay 50.5, 11. Sangreal (10) S. Shareef 50.5 and 12. Shah Of Iran (6) B. Nikhil 50.

1. DIABLO, 2. HIGH HEELS, 3. CRIMSON ROSE

6 OSMAN SAGAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3.45: 1. Miss Maya (6) B.R. Kumar 62, 2. D Minchu (1) P. Ajeeth K 61, 3. Hurricane Bay (5) Vivek G 59, 4. Mikimoto (8) Kuldeep Sr. 58.5, 5. Ragnarök (10) Santosh Raj 57.5, 6. Best Buddy (9) Md. Ekram 56.5, 7. Baisa (2) Ajay K 55.5, 8. Dali's Destiny (4) Gaurav Singh 55, 9. Dyanoosh (3) Surya Prakash 54.5, 10. Runlikethewind (7) Likith Appu 54 and 11. Fly Tothe Stars (11) H.M. Akshay 52.

1. MIKIMOTO, 2. D MINCHU, 3. HURRICANE BAY

7 SCARLET PRINCE PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), no whip, 4.20: 1. Lifes Journey (7) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Quality Warrior (1) Shivansh 60, 3. Gloria (14) Ashad Asbar 59.5, 4. Sargent (3) Sonu K 59.5, 5. Assured Success (9) Kuldeep Sr. 58.5, 6. Alpine Girl (2) Mohit 57.5, 7. Caraxes (11) H.M. Akshay 55.5, 8. City Cruise (10) Abhay Singh 52.5, 9. Sadiya (4) Kuldeep Jr. 51.5, 10. Muaser (8) G. Naresh 51, 11. Secret Option (6) P. Sai K 51, 12. Rani Ruckus (13) Ajay K 50.5, 13. Total Control (12) Surya Prakash 50.5 and 14. Flashing Memories (5) Md. Ekram 50.

1. SARGENT, 2. GLORIA, 3. QUALITY WARRIOR

8 TENACITY PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.55: 1. Always Special (6) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Desert Sultan (4) Mukesh K 60, 3. Golden Inzio (13) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 4. Politics (7) Md. Ismail 60, 5. Pinatubo (12) B. Nikhil 59.5, 6. Battle On (2) P. Sai K 59, 7. Lego (5) Ashad Asbar 58.5, 8. Club Queen (8) Md. Ekram 58, 9. Jim (9) Kuldeep Jr. 58, 10. Hoping Queen (1) Mohit 56.5, 11. Grey Sky (10) R.S. Jodha 56, 12. Shubhrak (11) A.A. Vikrant 55 and 13. Deccan Ranger (3) Shivansh 54.

1. DESERT SULTAN, 2. LEGO, 3. GOLDEN INZIO

Day's Best: **MIKIMOTO**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Five Indians in knockouts of World 6-Red snooker

Press Trust of India
MANAMA

Indian cueists had a good day in office as five of them were assured of knockout berths in the IBSF World 6-Red snooker championships here on Sunday.

The results: Group A: Kamal Chawla bt Ali Hussein 4-3.

Group J: Brijesh Damani bt Abdulrahman Saif 4-1; bt Asif Imran 4-1 (40-48, 39-10, 31-3, 36-17, 36-0).

Group K: Paras Gupta bt Abdulla Mohammed 4-1; bt Sami Al Hamrashdi 4-1.

Group L: Manan Chandra bt Susantha Boteju 4-0; bt Ihab Al-Salih 4-2.

Group M: Pankaj Advani bt Ahmad Abul 4-1; bt Ayman Alamri 4-1.